

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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I N S I D E

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See HOUSE on Page 8

Local

Comedian Navarette doubles-up Saipan

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Wild laughter and frequent applause filled the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach's Hibiscus Hall on Saturday night as Filipino-American comedian Rex Navarette performed for some 500 people, joking about the Filipino mentality, immigrant experience, and his mother.

Following a short pre-show by Guam's amateur comedy series champion Frank Rios, Navarette took the stage with nothing but a bottle of water. For the next hour and a half, he brought to life his famous characters, from his ESL ["English as a Stupid Language"] teacher Mrs. Scott to his Irish high school friend Brian and to his Uncle [or "Tito"] Boy.

Navarette humored the crowd with his stories about his early years in the San Francisco Bay Area, knowing only one English sentence, and having his grandfather for a babysitter. He also told hilarious jokes about the Filipino accent and the many "similarities" between the Irish and the Filipino peoples. ["The Irish were butchered by the English; us



Filipinos butcher English."]

In fact, his mother and her own prejudice against Filipinos have provided Navarette with most of his material for his lampooning and often irreverent routines.

He made fun of his mother's strange pieces of advice whenever he went traveling to the Philippines: blink your eyes only twice a day so kidnappers won't think you're Chinese, and surround yourself with *chicharon* to keep the Muslim extremists away.

Navarette went on to comment on the practice of Filipinos, or Asians for that matter, of using their bare hands for eating. "Quoting" his mother, Navarette posed the question: "If I used my hand to eat rice at home, I'm Third World; but if I ate at McDonald's and used my hand to pick French Fries, I'm First World?"

In an interview after the show, Navarette said he had fun performing for the Saipan crowd, which has been receptive to his comedy.

"The audience was excellent. I don't know if you guys get stand up comedy here often, but it was really nice to perform for the first time here in front of a fresh audience. The people just let go of a lot of stuff," said Navarette, who has been in the entertainment busi-

ness for 15 years now.

He said he tries to make his routine universal to get more people to connect with his jokes. The immigrant experience, he said, is one good example of a universal theme.

"Everyone has immigrant experience, making some kind of transition to a new land. There's a lot of comedy you can find in adjusting and discrimination," he said.

While he normally has a working script for his acts, Navarette leaves room for spontaneity during his performances.

"I write down ideas, but I don't necessarily script them all out. I just kind of like use the stage as my work-in-progress board. If [a joke] is good, I keep it. I remember it for the next time and develop it some more. The routines sometimes come on stage, or when you're walking around, getting some groceries or just observing people," he said.

Navarette started doing stand up comedy at age 19. In his trade, he has found a venue to comment on things that otherwise would not be mentioned.

"I guess it is my mission to showcase Filipino life and the mind of the Filipino. We're beyond the United States now. We're everywhere; we're really part of the world," Navarette said.

Nevertheless, he said he

does not claim to be able to reach every Filipino through his comedy. He noted that there are some Filipinos who actually find offensive or insulting the things he talks about on stage.

"They'd say, 'You're on stage with an accent; we don't have an accent.' But yes, we do and it's okay. You're the one discriminating against yourself when you start teaching Filipinos to be ashamed," Navarette said. "That is the sound of my characters. I'm not going to fake it or make it cheap. I'm going to give you the real sound."

And what does his mother think? "At first, she found me very offensive. But now that I've become 'famous' in her eyes and her friends' eyes, she's accepting it," he replied. He added that the prejudice against Filipinos he portrays on stage signifies not so much his mother's own attitude on how Filipinos in general think of their fellowmen.

Organizer Nathan Sablan described Budweiser's Rexxx Rated Comedy Show as very successful. He said Marpac, which distributes the beer brand in the CNMI, plans to bring more comedy acts to the island.

Other sponsors were Continental Airlines, Dai-Ichi Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower, Budget Rental Car, Coca Cola, Power 99, and The Rock.

verizon
cmyk

Island Snapshots

The *Island Snapshots* accept contributed pictures of Melodies, weddings, baptisms, and other noteworthy and family events for these publications. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. It must include a caption containing complete details for description of the event, identities of the persons in the photos, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The *Island Snapshots* reserves the right to edit the captions, the date of publication, and the size of the pictures. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@japantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 223-6337, 223-2448, or 223-4740.

PHI

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**COMMUNITY
Briefs**

WEATHER FORECAST

PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004

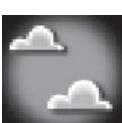
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8N from 130E to 153 and between the Equator and 6N from 160E to 180. A cold front stretches from 25N 161E to 20N 146E and continues as a shear line to 19N 130E. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated with this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12N and 18N from 132E to 150E. This area includes the Mariana Islands.


SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.


GUAM AND ROTA

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.


PALAU

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.


POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.


YAP AND ULITHI

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.


KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 10-15 kt.


CHUUK

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.


MAJURO

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

3 workers sue ex-employer for issuing bad checks

Three workers who earlier filed federal labor complaints against their former employer filed a lawsuit against the company before the Superior Court.

Wu Xian Zhong, Xu Qing Xian, and Chen Kun Tai said checks issued to them by New Saipan Development Inc. bounced and were never paid despite demand.

The checks issued were for payment of wages, said the workers' lawyer, S. Joshua Berger, in a civil complaint filed sometime last week.

Berger said the company issued a \$3,000-check to Wu on Feb. 9, 1999. The company issued two checks to Chen in the amounts of \$320.42 and \$2,282.24, and two checks with the amounts of \$2,932.24 and

\$1,471.91 to Xu, he added.

"Bad check letters were issued to [the company] forewarning it of the consequences if not paying pursuant to the requirements of the CNMI Bad Check Act of 1984," Berger said.

The lawyer said the company failed and refused to pay the amounts indicated in the bounced checks despite being sent demand letters.

Berger asked the court to compel the company to pay the workers the amounts indicated in the checks, besides interests and costs incidental to the lawsuit.

The workers had filed federal labor complaints against the company for alleged nonpayment of overtime, he added.

(John Ravelo)

Reading program available for youth

Youth Congress senator and Marianas Baptist Academy student Roselle Calvo recently disclosed that she, along with two other individuals, are coordinating a reading program intended to help the youth on Saipan.

According to Calvo, the program, dubbed "Reading is Fun," will provide a venue for children who have reading difficulties to receive tutoring for free.

"It's a way to give back to the community," Calvo said. "It's actually intended for underprivileged children, but anyone can come."

Also involved in the program are fellow MBA senior Naomi Boyer and businesswoman Sharee Diaz.

Registration for the services is scheduled for next Saturday, Nov. 20, from 1pm to 3pm, at the Lawyers Services located at the third floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe.

The program will officially get underway the following Saturdays, from 1-3pm.

The program was created last year by Calvo and older sister Carla. The two were lauded by several members of the community.

"I wish we have more of Carla and Roselle in our community. These kids deserve praise and a round of applause for their dedication and unselfish help. Nowadays, this kind of help is hard to find. It is my sincere hope that we have these kinds of devotion to community all over our beautiful islands. To give back to our community without regard for pay is something very few in society are willing to do. This is a tremendous help that we should appreciate from Roselle and Carla.

This is the kind of character and attitude we always wish we have in our community," said Jack Dela Cruz in a letter to the Saipan Tribune. *(Shan Seman)*

PTC PEPSI

CARS

DPS occupant protection and sobriety checkpoints this week

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting occupant protection and sobriety checkpoints for two days this week.

An occupant protection checkpoint will be conducted on Thursday, Nov. 11, on 2W Hwy Tanapag by Top Fashion. This will start at approximately 8am and will finish at 9:15am.

Another occupant protection checkpoint will also be conducted by the DPS on Beach Road Susupe by the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. This operation will begin at approximately 3:30pm and will finish at approximately 4:45pm.

DPS' Traffic Section will then conduct sobriety checkpoints on Saturday, November 13. The first setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in

San Jose by the Sablan Building. This will commence at approximately 7:30pm and will end at approximately 8:45pm.

The second sobriety checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Triple J Motors. This will begin at approximately 10pm and will end at approximately 11:15pm.

This activity is part of the DPS' efforts to deter and detect drunk/intoxicated drivers and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, the DPS traffic officers will be performing highway criminal interdiction, aggressive driver interdiction, and laser activities.

For more information, please contact Rose Ada-Hocog or Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar at 664-9084-5.

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Four alien workers were ordered to depart the Commonwealth, as the Department of Labor Hearing Office called for an investigation against a businesswoman who employed the workers and six others without valid permits or authorization.

In an Oct. 29 administrative order, Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody affirmed the Labor director's decision to deny the permit applications filed by employer Julia S. Seman for 10 nonresident workers.

Seman is owner of One Call Services, a company that provides commercial cleaning to the Northern Marianas College and other businesses in Saipan. She also owns Oram

Security Services, which provides security guard services to businesses in Saipan.

The order was issued to resolve an appeal concerning 10 workers whose transfer applications were denied by the Labor department. Five workers' applications were denied because of uncorrected deficiencies; four workers' applications were denied as untimely; and one worker's denial appeal was dismissed as untimely.

At the hearing of the appeal, it was found that Seman filed "grossly deficient" applications for workers Eddie S. Saturno, Danilo S.B. Geneblazo, Marissa M. Gavino, Rhodelita Monsanto, and Floro S. Derexes.

Cody said the applications were missing some or all of the following documents: a certified job vacancy announcement, valid business license, statement of compliance, employer's agreement, original surety bond, cash bond, valid health certificate, and business establishment inspection.

Seman failed to correct many deficiencies for months

after she was informed about them. She also testified that she cannot afford cash bonds for these workers.

Noting that the employees were not at fault in the matter, Cody allowed the workers to seek new employers within 45 days, or until Dec. 13, 2004.

Also given transfer relief was worker Domingo P. Naulgan, whose application was filed one day late. "It would be unduly harsh to require Mr. Naulgan to depart the CNMI based on his employer missing the filing deadline by one day," Cody said.

The four other workers, however, were given 30 days to leave the CNMI.

Of these workers, three were found to have worked for Seman without a permit, for periods ranging from a year to nearly three years. They are Christopher M. Monsanto, Rogel R. Serrano, and Elmer J. Lucas.

The other worker—Veronica J. Jorda—was also ordered to depart the Commonwealth because she failed to appeal the denial of her permit application.

cation until one year and four months later.

Labor laws give involved parties only 15 days to appeal a denial.

The hearing office also found that Jorda worked for Seman without a permit for two years.

Cody ordered Seman to provide airline tickets for the four workers who were ordered to depart.

He also instructed the Division of Labor to investigate the employer, who expressed no remorse for her conduct.

"On the contrary, she stated that she had done nothing wrong because, by employing these workers, she had enabled them to earn money and remain in the CNMI," Cody said. "This employer has demonstrated by both her conduct and attitude a blatant disregard of the CNMI's labor laws and regulations."

Further, Cody noted that after the hearing, two of Seman's workers submitted a letter informing the Hearing Office that they are owed certain unpaid wages.

GES salutes carnival supporters

Garapan Elementary School extends its appreciation to the community members, parent-teachers association, staff and teachers, and student council for their show of Mallard spirit during the Halloween Carnival.

As always, the school family came together to provide a night of fun and entertainment that went to benefit the students of GES.

The following are important GES dates for the remainder of November:

Nov. 6-NJFL @ Kobler Elementary
Nov. 1-11-CNMI Recycles Contest
Nov. 10-GES Pizza Hut Night
Nov. 11-Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 13-PGFC @ Kobler Elementary
Nov. 17-PTA meeting @ 6:00 pm, cafeteria
Nov. 18—"A night with the mallards"
Community Dinner
Nov. 19-2nd quarter mid progress report day
Nov. 24-Education Day-student holiday
Nov. 25 to 26-Thanksgiving break

OVR NOTICE



Hopwood Junior High celebrate Cultural Day

Over 840 students of Hopwood Junior High School, their teachers and parents, and Public School System officials celebrated Cultural Day at the school's campus last Oct. 10.

The Cultural Day committee, made up of teachers, counselors, staff and of course, hundreds of students, put on an outstanding display of cultural and community spirit.

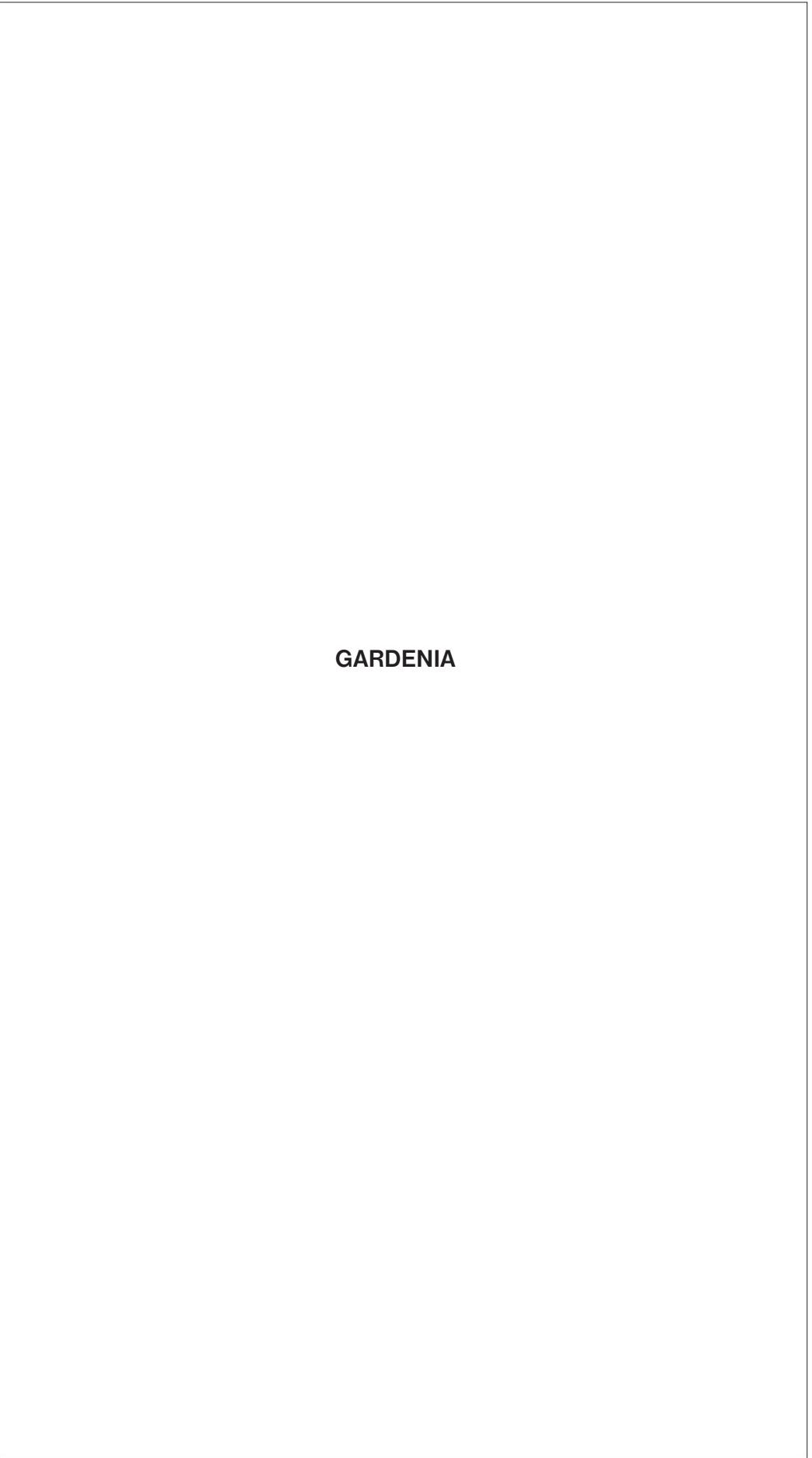
The Department of Public Safety-DARE, school resource officers, and part of their command structure also added to the success of the event.



Hopwood Junior High School would like to thank these officers, the parents, and members of the community for their outstanding support in making the Cultural Day a huge, safe and fun day.

Hopwood Junior High School is looking forward for another great event next year.

Island Snapshots



GARDENIA

Business

ROTARY CLUB
+BLUE

Self-destructing DVDs to reach more people

By GARY GENTILE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Christmas-themed movie "Noel" most likely won't be coming to a theater near you—but if you miss it on cable, there's always the self-destructing DVD.

The movie's producers hope its "trimultaneous" roll out this month, which starts this weekend with a theater release in just five major cities, will prove the public is willing to "rent" movies that must be tossed in the trash after just a viewing or two.

Disposable DVDs look and play like normal DVDs, except that their playable surface is dark red.

Each disc contains a chemical time-bomb that begins ticking once it's exposed to air. Typically, after 48 hours, the disc turns darker, becoming so opaque that a DVD player's laser can no longer read it. (Discs can live as little as one hour or as long as 60 hours.)

The format has been around for a few years but hasn't generated much interest from movie studios, video rental companies—or customers—despite experiments to deliver movies direct to consumers and eliminate late fees.

Enter "Noel," an emotional Christmas story starring Susan Sarandon, Penelope Cruz and Robin Williams. The independent film was shown at this year's Toronto Film Festival but didn't attract interest from mainstream distribution companies.

So the Atlanta-based Convex Group bought distribution rights and is releasing the film on a few dozen screens. Then, starting mid-month, the movie will be available in the disposable EZ-D format for \$4.99 on Amazon.com. On cable, it will air once, on TNT, during Thanksgiving weekend.

Convex owns more than 100 media patents and holds exclusive distribution rights to CD-ROMS that fit into the lids of soft drink cups. The company also owns Flexplay Technologies Inc., the company behind the disposable EZ-D.

The technology's backers see it as an alternative for video rental stores and Netflix-type mail-based subscription services. After the movie is watched, the consumer tosses it into the trash, eliminating late fees and the cost of return mail—but creating a potentially large new source of trash.

The potential to add to land-

fills may be the least of reasons disposable DVDs have so far been a dud.

The discs can be illegally copied and pirated, just like regular DVDs. And while they are made of recyclable plastic, consumers would have to mail them to a special center for processing.

Blockbuster Inc. hasn't embraced disposable DVDs because it says it does not want to confuse its customers. Instead, the company has adopted a Netflix-like subscription approach to video rentals.

"We really don't see the idea going anywhere, ultimately," Blockbuster spokesman Randy Hargrove said of disposable DVDs.

That's bad news for Convex, which bought Flexplay last month. Flexplay had provided discs to The Walt Disney Co., which has experimented with the format for the past year in eight test markets.

Disney has released a number of films on the discs, including "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" and "Bridget Jones's Diary." The movies are sold in unconventional outlets, such as convenience stores, and are generally made available weeks after they first appear on DVD.

For films with less backing, disposable DVDs may be an option.

"Noel" director Chazz Pal-

minteri hopes Convex's unique marketing approach will generate a buzz, calling it "really the only way you can compete with the Christmas movies that have \$30 million budgets."

While the novelty of a fading DVD may attract some buyers, Convex chief executive Jeff Arnold said it won't take off without studios releasing films in the format.

"People aren't enamored of technology. They are enamored of content," he said.

But Convex ran into a wall of opposition from the major theater chains, none of which wanted to show a movie that would also appear on television and be sold on DVD at the same time.

The average studio release is in theaters for five months before it is released on DVD, according to the National Association of Theater Owners. So Convex will be showing "Noel" at smaller theaters in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Atlanta and Chicago.

Ironically, Regal Entertainment Group theaters, which refused to show the film, will be promoting the movie on soda cups and on mini-DVDs called "Lidrocks" embedded in soda caps. Regal has a deal with Convex to use its Lidrocks product.

Studios haven't given up trying alternative routes to get DVDs into the hands of consumers more quickly.

Office Depot to eliminate 800 more jobs

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Office Depot Inc. announced plans Friday to cut roughly another 800 jobs, including positions in retail stores, its corporate headquarters and its European sales force, officials said.

The announcement comes two weeks after officials announced plans to cut 900 jobs as it consolidates operations at eight call centers and offices in six states.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office Depot—the nation's second-largest office supply retailer—said it was reducing its staff at retail stores in North America by 2 percent. Altogether, the cuts were estimated to generate \$14.2 million in annual savings.

Chairman and chief executive Neil Austrian said the company was concentrating on strategic programs and "a focus on fewer programs requires fewer people."

Office Depot's third-quarter earnings fell nearly 2 percent

as back-to-school and European sales were weaker than expected.

The cuts include:

- 550 full time retail store employees in North America;
- 97 employees at its corporate headquarters in Delray Beach;
- 24 workers at a call center in Torrance, Calif.;
- 93 financial workers in Wichita, Kan. These jobs will be outsourced to a domestic company and the employees will be offered positions at the outsourcing company;
- 10 employees at its 4sure.com, Inc., subsidiary in Trumbull, Conn.
- 45 employees of its contract sales force in Europe.

In trading Friday, Office Depot shares closed up 16 cents, or 1 percent, at \$17.05 on the New York Stock Exchange—near the middle of their 52-week trading range of \$13.87 to \$19.50.

JC Penney exec Castagna leaves company

PLANO, Texas (AP)—Vanessa Castagna, recruited by J.C. Penney Co. to revive its sagging department stores five years ago, has left the company weeks after being passed over for the retailer's top job.

Castagna was an executive at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in 1999 when Penney hired her to lead its department store division.

With her five-year contract due to expire Sunday, Castagna decided to leave, Penney said Friday. The company said Ken Hicks, president and chief op-

erating officer of stores, would take on Castagna's duties on an interim basis.

Castagna, whose title was chairman and chief executive of stores, catalog, and Internet, did not indicate any specific career plans.

On Oct. 27, Penney announced that its directors had picked Myron E. Ullman III, 57, a former chief executive of Macy's, to take over Dec. 1. Retiring chairman and chief executive Allen Questrom expressed disappointment that Castagna didn't get the job.

PHI GRAND OPENING

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Palestinians and democracy

With British Prime Minister Tony Blair at his side, President Bush Friday offered a heartening commitment to pursue Palestinian democracy and statehood in the next four years—with the former a condition for the latter. His promise to “spend the capital of the United States on such a state” should encourage leaders around the region who have despaired at U.S. inaction on that front during Bush’s first term; his parallel pledge to work more closely with European allies on that and other initiatives also augurs a step in the right direction. We agree with the president about the paramount importance of Palestinian democracy: Unlike the Bush administration, we favored Palestinian elections even before the death of Yasser Arafat. Yet Bush’s new and overwhelming emphasis on democracy as the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a little troubling, because it seemed to minimize the fact that Israeli as well as Palestinian action will be necessary if the opportunity created by Arafat’s death is to be seized.

The Israeli-Palestinian “road map” approved by Bush nearly two years ago envisioned steps toward Palestinian elections and other reforms, including a reorganization of security forces to fight terrorism. Those were to be accompanied by specific Israeli actions, including a freeze on further expansion of West Bank settlements. But when asked on Friday what steps Israel should take, and whether he favored a settlement freeze, Bush declined to answer, instead repeating his call for Palestinian democracy. In fact, as he described it, the president’s new strategy allows Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to proceed with his plan for a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, coupled with the expansion of major West Bank settlements and construction of a border-like security fence that will attach them to Israel.

Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would be a positive development. But Sharon’s initiative was predicated on the notion that there was no Palestinian “partner” with whom Israel could negotiate—and that Israel’s unilateral steps would create a long-term roadblock to Palestinian statehood. With Arafat replaced, at least on an interim basis, by leaders who have opposed violence and endorsed the road map, that logic no longer applies. In fact, an important opportunity exists for Israel to reopen talks with the Palestinians and demonstrate that moves toward peace by a new leadership will be reciprocated. Sharon could immediately begin to negotiate the terms of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and he could talk about the route of the security fence and the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank. He could also prove that he is serious about a two-state solution by ending the expansion of settlements and removing the new “outposts” he pledged to dismantle long ago.

As the Bush administration should have learned last year, when an attempt by Palestinian moderates to wrest power from Arafat failed, positive action by Israel and the United States is essential if pro-peace Palestinians are to prevail over those who favor continued warfare. Fair elections won’t even be possible without Israeli steps to allow free movement and suspend its own assassination attacks; the most popular Palestinian leader now sits in an Israeli prison, where he is serving a life sentence. Unless there is a clear prospect that negotiations will lead to the early creation of a Palestinian state, the elections Bush so strongly favors will not bring an Israeli-Palestinian settlement any closer. A majority of Palestinians would probably choose a negotiated peace—but only if the United States ensures that such a peace is a realistic possibility.

(c) 2004, The Washington Post



Winning in Fallujah is just the beginning

By WESLEY K. CLARK
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Americans scouring news reports of the U.S.-led assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah can be forgiven if they are experiencing a degree of confusion and uncertainty. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assures us that U.S. and Iraqi government forces are advancing steadily through the insurgent stronghold and that the assault has been “very, very successful.” Yet even as troops move street by street through the Sunni city, the measure of their success is elusive. There’s no uniformed enemy force, no headquarters, no central command complex for U.S. troops to occupy and win. At the end, there will be no surrender.

Instead, the outcome of the battle must be judged by a less clear-cut standard: not by the seizure and occupation of ground, but by the impact it has on the political and diplomatic process in Iraq. Its chances for success in that area are highly uncertain. Will Fallujah, like the famous Vietnam village, be the place we destroyed in order to save it? Will the bulk of the insurgents simply scatter to other Iraqi cities? Will we win a tactical victory only to fail in our strategic goal of convincing Iraqis that we are making their country safe for democracy—and specifically for elections at the end of January?

An attack on Fallujah has been inevitable for many months. If we are to succeed in the democratization of Iraq, the interim government and its U.S. and coalition allies must have a “monopoly” on the use of force within the country’s borders. There can be no sanctuaries for insurgents and terrorists, no fiefdoms run by private armies. Fallujah could not continue to be a base for those waging war on the Iraqi government and a no-go place for those organizing elections.

Now that we have engaged, there cannot be any doubt about the outcome. It, too, is inevitable. U.S. forces don’t “lose” on the battlefield these days. We haven’t lost once in Iraq. Nor in Afghanistan. Not in the Balkans, or in the first Gulf War. Nor in Panama. We fight where we are told and win where we fight. We are well trained, disciplined and, when we prepare adequately, exceedingly well equipped. We will take the city, and with relatively few U.S. casualties. And we will have killed a lot of people who were armed and resisting us.

But in what sense is this “winning?”

To win means not just to occupy the city, but to do so in a way that knocks the local opponent permanently out of the fight, demoralizes broader resistance, and builds legitimacy for U.S. aims, methods and allies. Seen this way, the battle for Fallujah is not just a matter of shooting. It is part of a larger bargaining process that has included negotiations, threats and staged preparations to pressure insurgent groups into preemptive surrender, to deprive them of popular tolerance and support, and to demonstrate to the Iraqi people and to others that force was used only as a last resort in order to gain increased legitimacy for the interim Iraqi government.

Even the use of force required a further calculus. Had we relentlessly destroyed the city and killed large numbers of innocent civilians, or

suffered crippling losses in the fighting, we most certainly would have been judged “losers.” And if we can’t hold on and prevent the insurgents from infiltrating back in—as has now occurred in the recently “liberated” city of Samarra—we also shall have lost.

The battle plan was tailored to prevent significant destruction. It called for a slow squeeze, starting with precision strikes against identified targets, and followed by a careful assault directed at taking out the opposition and reoccupying the city, while minimizing civilian and friendly casualties. We have superior mobility, with heavily armored vehicles; we have superior firepower, with the Bradley’s 25mm cannon, M1A1 Abrams tanks, artillery and airstrikes; we have advantages in reconnaissance, with satellites, TV-equipped unmanned aerial vehicles and a whole array of electronic gear. But urban combat partially neutralizes each of these advantages. A weaker defender can inflict much punishment with only a meager force fighting from the rubble, provided they fight to the death. So this has not been a “cakewalk.” This has been a tough battle, and the men and women fighting there deserve every Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Bronze Star or Purple Heart they receive.

During the recent presidential campaign, there was a lot of talk about supporting our troops in wartime. And yet calling what’s going on in Iraq “war” has distracted us from marshaling the diplomatic and political support our troops need to win.

To a considerable extent, the insurgency in Iraq has been supported by external efforts: Syria’s facilitating of passage by jihadists, Iran’s eager efforts to re-integrate Shiism and assure the emergence of an Iraqi regime to Tehran’s liking, and efforts by some Saudis to reinforce Sunni dominance in Iraq. (On the eve of the battle in Fallujah, one group of 26 Saudi religious scholars urged Iraqis to support the insurgents.)

The success of our military efforts in Iraq is thus directly connected to the skill of U.S. diplomacy in the region. Certainly neither Syria nor Iran could welcome American success in Iraq if they believe it means they’ll be next on a list of regimes to be “reformed” by the United States—and yet that’s precisely the goal of American policy. Bringing about change in those countries should be a matter of offering inducements as well as making threats, but not if it adds to the danger for our men and women in uniform. We need to choose: continue to project a grand vision, or focus on success in Iraq. Not only the safety of our troops, but the success of our mission depends on a degree of Syrian and Iranian accommodation for an American-supported, peaceful, stable, democratizing Iraq. And we won’t get that support if they think they’re next on the hit list.

It is equally important to seek a resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, which has fueled the recruiting efforts and determination of the jihadists we’re fighting in Iraq.

And then there’s the matter of the political struggle inside Iraq. If, despite a high level of chaos, the elections do take place, the Bush administration must be prepared to accept and empower an Iraqi government and a nascent political process with sufficient

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REFORM POLICY

The *Opinion Column* section contains commentary on politics, culture, religion, social issues, and topics of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact information of the contributor. Letters that are critical or negative in nature will not be published. Contributions over 500 words or longer may require approval by the editor. The *Editorial Board* reserves the right to edit submitted contributions for length, grammar, and style and reserves the right to publish or withhold any article at its discretion. The *Editorial Board* does not accept responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Fresh air with Tony Blair

One of the curses or gifts of residing on the American western end of the Pacific is the prospect of flying more than ten hours in those trans-Pacific flights to get you to the eastern seaboard of the continental United States. Taking one to a national humanities conference in Washington, DC this weekend, I had the chance to reflect at length over the political events of the past several weeks. Confined to limited space for an extended period of flying time, in this case, directly between Nagoya and Detroit, one has a lot of time to think and read if one can ignore the four commercial movies that are shown to pass the lengthy hours of flight time in sardine-packed quarters. One also encounters interesting people with intriguing views and fascinating perspectives. Conversations fueled with a tad of Kailua on vodka topped with Bailey's crème, and garnished with spiced salty sweetened shredded dried squid, tend to add to lively discourse and animated discussion. I got more than I bargained for. With my luck, I ran into a Brit who would fight tooth and nail for Tony Blair, and an Aussie who would dismember John Howard any day in November.

I am, of course, alluding to the Howard-Bush-Blair triumvirate, two of whom survived closely watched and tightly fought reelection efforts. The Aussie's comments about PM Howard, wildly entertaining in the Outback, is not fit to print in a family-oriented newspaper. Howard's Conservative Coalition has garnered a majority position on both upper and lower houses of the Australian Parliament, and one must grudgingly admire his political acumen. The Brit's defense of Tony Blair is strained. Blair of the Labor Party has come under severe attack in his own Party for his support of President Bush and his war policies. Even the staid and definitely Tory conservative Economist Magazine reluctantly endorsed Sen. Kerry in the last election, characterizing the choice as between "Bush the Incompetent and Kerry the Incoherent." Not unlike the weak opposition to Howard, and my candidate Kerry's "incoherent" alternative to Bush, Blair may very well survive a general election for the same absence of a credible opposition to his current lease of 10 Downing Street.

I took the long view on GW, quoting him on his 2001 Inaugural Address when he said: "We have a place, all of us, in a long story, a story we continue, but whose end we will not see. It is the story of a new world that became a friend and liberator of the old, a story of a slave-holding society that became a servant of freedom, to story of a power that went into the world to protect but not possess, to defend but not to conquer. It is the American story—a story of flawed and fallible people, united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals."

Taking the "flawed and fallible people" as rather on target, and the "all of us" as a promise of unity that remains to be demonstrated, I am of the hope that the latter would be an operating perspective in Bush's second term. The characterization of foreign policy in the service of freedom and liberation, to protect but not to possess, to defend but not to conquer, is already being severely tested as American and Iraqi forces wage war against insurgents in Falluja.

With Arafat's life journey completed, crisis looms in the Palestinian end of the Fertile Crescent, and as the Chinese are wont to remind everyone, crisis is nothing but the conjunction of possibility and despair. Six hours after I touched down Reagan International Airport, Tony Blair of Great Britain comes to town, unabashedly out to make a case for his friend G.W. to push for the possibility-end of the crisis.

Cashing in on a well-earned goodwill for loyalty and unwavering support of official White House foreign policy, the Blair and Bush show Friday proved to be as upbeat as can be graciously pulled off under current favorable circumstances. Inside the beltway, 80 percent of whom nodded to Kerry in the last presidential tally, wears its sophisticated cynicism over all this while mid-continental America waved its triumphalistic red-white-and-blue to honor its war veterans the day before.

Meanwhile, at the newly inaugurated National Museum of American Indians in the National Mall, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), the celebrated "one of the most courageous persons the

By JAIME VERGARA

Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.



Civil Rights Movement ever produced" legislator addressed officers and Board members of 56 State and Territorial Humanities Councils in their annual conference at the nation's capital this year. Delivering the Walter H. Capps Memorial Lecture honoring former teacher, writer, public servant and humanist Congressman Capps of California, the Museum's main auditorium grandiosely reverberated with the pulpit-tailored prophetic voice of the Civil Rights MLK Jr. tradition, refusing to be cowed into tones of cynicism and despair fashionable among Georgetown and Capitol Hill soirees these colorful though a tad bit wet autumn days. Lewis exhorted his audience to be instruments in facilitating the dialogue and the civil discourse that need to prevail in the public domain not only in America but across the fragile sphere, the real estate we call home, the planet Earth. "We must learn to live together. Find a way to get on the way. Peaceful ends require peaceful means. Humanize America; humanize the world!" In Lewis was found Friday night an articulation of the American story, a story of flawed and fallible people, united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals.

NMICH Board Chair Liz Richebe and member Felicidad Ogumuro were effusive in their gratitude for Lewis, inspirational utterances. I plunged into a more practical agenda. "We need a delegate in Congress," I said. "I hear you. I hear you." Lewis replied. T'was good to breathe fresh air in the Mall by the Capitol this Fall.

Letters to the Editor

CUC's faulty assumptions

I want to thank the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for holding the public hearing on Nov. 10, 2004 concerning the impending 3.5-cent fuel surcharge fee increase. The meeting was informative, and shed a great deal of light on CUC operations. Unfortunately the public was not represented well and the general public should be ashamed of itself when they begin to complain on Dec. 7, the date the FSF increase is scheduled to be implemented.

CUC's entire argument and presentation for a FSF is based upon two key assumptions

- CUC sells all power for 11 cents per kWh across the board to all customers. This is simply not true. Making this assumption simply does not tell the entire story of the FSF and is extremely dangerous.

- CUC made another rather large assumption related to the price of fuel for the 4th quarter 2004. CUC is projecting that fuel is going to increase 35 percent to \$1.465 per gallon in the 4th quarter from an average price of \$1.089 per gallon for the first three quarters of 2004. That is a big increase.

I offer my comments and observations related to the presentation. Using CUC's own figures, the cost to produce a kWh of

electricity is 15.507 cents. This is computed using 5.507 cents per kWh for non-fuel expenses and 10 cents per kWh for fuel based upon average fuel purchases for calendar year 2004 (If for some reason fuel declines this number would also decline) provided by the CUC controller.

The CUC currently charges 16 cents per kWh for commercial power, allowing for a ½ cent per kWh profit. According to the CUC about 65 percent of power sold is commercial power and is sold at 16 cents per kWh. Notice that I said that currently CUC is producing commercial power at a profit of ½ cents per kWh. Yes, I said profit, despite claims of higher fuel prices. I wonder what happened to all the profits when fuel price were half of what they are today? I will leave that question for our elected leaders to address.

On the residential side, the cost to produce a kWh of electricity is 15.507 cents as well. Power is sold for 11 cents per kWh or at a loss of 4.507 cents per kWh. According to the CUC about 35 percent of the power sold is residential. Notice that I said a loss of 4.5 cents per kWh.

For example if 1,000 kWh produced, split between commercial (65 percent) and residential (35 percent) the following would occur.

kWh	Power Split	Price	Revenue
1,000	65% 35%	650 0.16000 350 0.11000	\$104 \$39 \$143
		650 0.15507 350 0.15507	\$101 \$54
			\$155 \$(13) 12
			Total Cost Monthly Loss
			\$155 \$(13) 12
			Annual loss KWh Annual production
			\$12,000 \$0.012570
			FSF based upon 12,000 kWh annual production

Based upon the above, the annual loss of \$151 in the example, See CUC on Page 13

Painting another picture of the Bush reelection

I fully support an "open" dialogue concerning the last election and its future repercussions. Recently I read the response by "Name withheld by request," in regards to Mr. Farrell's "grasping the present or predicting the future." At the very least, Mr. Farrell has the courage to sign his name. He has nothing to hide or fear and is willing to stand up and be counted.

However the rather rosy future that "No Name" has painted is not what I or Mr. Farrell see for America. "No Name" assures us that Bush will not be able to take away our human rights and that he will not raise the deficit to dangerous levels. "No Name" must not be reading the same newspaper I do. She or he must not be having the same experiences I have had in the last two years.

While I may not agree with every editorial, the Nov. 8 editorial from the Washington Post, in the Saipan Tribune is worth reading. A warning of the doubling of the deficit over the next four years

is very real to many—including Republicans. Of course America will survive, even with the looming inflation, but at what cost?

Tennessee has just axed its health care assistance for 450,000 of the state's poor and elderly. Corporate pension plans are being axed for long-time employees in exchange for corporate profits. The Bank of America is being audited for possible fraud in its pension and 401K plans by the federal government. Seems this huge banking corporation just may have defrauded its employees from their 401Ks in order to make huge profits for the shareholders. Naturally the audit will provide insight to this but it is just the tip of the iceberg. How many more corporations will drop pension plans? And so where does Social Security come in to play? Has the government been using Social Security to pay for its deficit?

Did "No Name" read the insightful article by Jeremy Rifkin, "America, wake up to the European dream?" (Saturday, Nov.

6, 2004 in the Saipan Tribune) This is no rosy picture for the economic/social policies of America. Europe pulls ahead while America, in its ignorance, falls behind. The tax breaks for the biggest/wealthiest corporations and individuals will be on Bush's agenda. (Now what was the name of that oil company that just recently made a 67 percent profit? Did you get a 67 percent increase in your paycheck this year? Will your cost of living allowance pay for any of the profit?) Mr. Rifkin's article paints a much clearer picture than what I read from "name withheld by request."

His are opinions, rightly so, and possibly dialogue, not fact.

And with respect to human rights and the Bill of Rights, well the new Attorney General, once he gets approved by the Senate, is known for throwing out human rights. And even today the White House is attempting to throw out the Oregon State law, "Death

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ANOTHER

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Nation

Cheney leaves hospital after tests

By DEB RIECHMANN
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Dick Cheney, who has a history of heart trouble, went to a hospital Saturday after experiencing shortness of breath. Tests found no abnormalities, an aide said, and Cheney left after three hours.

"I feel fine," the 63-year-old vice president said as he walked out with his wife, Lynne.

Cheney smiled and waved people gathered outside the hospital entrance.

"Sorry we ruined your Satur-

day," Mrs. Cheney told reporters. "We're great, thank you."

A pacemaker implanted in Cheney's chest three years ago indicated no irregularities during the past 90 days, said Mary Matalin, a spokeswoman for the vice president. The device gives doctors a three-month readout. She said an electrocardiogram, which measures the heart's electrical activity, showed no change.

His cardiologist, Dr. Jonathan Reiner, said he suspects the vice president has a respiratory infection.

"The vice president, com-

plaining of a productive cough and shortness of breath, was evaluated at George Washington Medical Center today," Reiner said in a statement issued by the White House. "Tests ruled out any cardiac cause of the vice president's symptoms. Tests also ruled out pneumonia and other pulmonary causes. The vice president likely has a viral, upper respiratory infection."

Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, although none as vice president, returned Thursday night from a pheasant hunting trip in South Dakota with a cold that left him short of breath, Matalin said.

The vice president, who joined President Bush on Friday for meetings with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, felt fine otherwise, but his cardiologist recommended as a precaution that he go to the hospital for tests.

"Everything looks great," Matalin said before Cheney was released. "He's walking around from room to room in his street clothes just waiting for the blood work."

She said Cheney was driven in a motorcade from his residence a few miles from the



Vice President Dick Cheney waves as he and his wife Lynne leave the Washington University Hospital in Washington, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004. AP

hospital and walked in under his own power.

The president was notified by his chief of staff, Andy Card, shortly after Bush returned from a bike ride Saturday at a Secret Service training facility outside Washington, White House spokesman Ken Lisaius said.

In June 2001, Cheney had a pacemaker implanted in his chest. At his annual heart checkup on May 11, doctors determined the pacemaker, called an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, was working fine and had never needed to assist his heart.

The device is designed to ac-

recovery and the disbanding of the Iraqi military. Then there was the aborted April 2004 effort to subdue the city, in which an under-strength Marine assault was called off by the White House. A silly plan of turning the city back over to a thrown-together Iraqi force left the enemy in control of the battlefield and turned Fallujah into even more of an insurgent stronghold.

This insurgency has continued to grow, despite U.S. military effectiveness on the ground. While Saddam Hussein's security forces may have always had a plan to resist the occupation, it was the failure of U.S. policymakers to gain political legitimacy that enabled the insurgency to grow. And while the failure may have begun with the inability to impose order after Saddam's ouster, it was the broader lack of a political coterie and the tools of political develop-

ment—such as the Vietnam program of Civil Operations-Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS)—which seems to have enabled the insurgency to take root amid the U.S. presence. These are the sorts of mistakes the United States must avoid in the future, otherwise the battle of Fallujah may end up being nothing more than the "taking down" of an insurgent stronghold—a battlefield success on the road to strategic failure.

Troops are in Fallujah only because of a political failure: Large numbers of Sunnis either wouldn't, or couldn't, participate in the political process and the coming elections. Greater security in Fallujah may move citizens (whenever they return) to take part in the voting; it's too early to say. But it's certain that you can't bomb people into the polling booths.

tivate automatically if needed to regulate the patient's heartbeat.

Ahead of the fall presidential campaign, Cheney dismissed speculation that his health might keep him from running again with Bush. He said his health had been good and he could not think of any circumstances that would prompt him to decline the role. He kept up a heavy travel schedule during Bush's re-election campaign, often traveling with his wife.

His first heart attack occurred in 1978, when he was 37. He had a second in 1984, and after suffering his third heart attack, in 1988, Cheney had quadruple bypass surgery to clear clogged arteries.

On Nov. 22, 2000, Cheney suffered what doctors called a "very slight" heart attack and had an angioplasty to open a clogged artery.

Cheney was back in the hospital on March 5, 2001, after complaining of chest pains. Doctors performed another angioplasty to reopen the same artery.

After his fourth heart attack, Cheney quit smoking, began regular daily exercises for 30 minutes on a treadmill and said he began watching his diet.

We should be under no illusions: This is not so much a war as it is an effort to birth a nation. It is past time for the administration to undertake diplomatic efforts in the region and political efforts inside Iraq that are worthy of the risks and burdens born by our men and women in uniform. No one knows better than they do: You cannot win in Iraq simply by killing the opponent. Much as we honor our troops and pray for their well-being, if diplomacy fails, their sacrifices and even their successes in Fallujah won't be enough.

The author served as commander in chief, U.S. Southern Command and later as supreme allied commander in Europe during the war in Kosovo. He was a candidate for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination.

fear. We are law-abiding citizens and we will try to inform and effect change for a better America than what we see in the future. I don't force my "moral values" on anyone else and I don't want the "moral majority," whatever color or creed, be it atheist or evangelical Christian, to try and force theirs upon me. This is a true and democratic America—with room for all peoples. I for one do not need George W. Bush to be my moral guidance counselor!

Phil Plaza
Saipan

WINNING

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independence to win support from the populace and undercut anger at the American troops. For most of a year, the effort at political transformation was been submerged beneath the rubric of "reconstruction" and hindered by the attitude that "security must come first." Security and domestic Iraqi politics go hand in hand.

Which brings us back to some of the factors that made last week's battle of Fallujah inevitable: a series of circumstances and errors in 2003—an initial coalition occupying force too small to achieve dominance over a historically restive population, the lack of a skilled political corps to reorganize the local inhabitants, the proscription of Baathist participation in the early postwar

recovery and the disbanding of the Iraqi military. Then there was the aborted April 2004 effort to subdue the city, in which an under-strength Marine assault was called off by the White House. A silly plan of turning the city back over to a thrown-together Iraqi force left the enemy in control of the battlefield and turned Fallujah into even more of an insurgent stronghold.

This insurgency has continued to grow, despite U.S. military effectiveness on the ground. While Saddam Hussein's security forces may have always had a plan to resist the occupation, it was the failure of U.S. policymakers to gain political legitimacy that enabled the insurgency to grow. And while the failure may have begun with the inability to impose order after Saddam's ouster, it was the broader lack of a political coterie and the tools of political develop-

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With Dignity." Have you stood beside your father who is dying from Parkinson's and cannot swallow his food, has constant nightmares and hallucinations and has wished for years to end his misery? What has happened to state's rights? Let us make this more personal now. Have you stood in line for an hour and 30 minutes in Guam while waiting for security checks? Last year I had to fly to LA to attend to both my ailing/dying parents.

I was definitely what you could call a frequent flier. Every four weeks or so I flew back and forth to LA. When in LA, I asked if I could go to the special scanner that would expedite my waiting in line. I was curtly told, "No. It is for businessmen only." I did not qualify. One time my wife and I were pulled out of line at the counter and told to stand in a special security check line at LAX. Everyone in that "security line" was either Middle Eastern looking or Hispanic. Except me. I have blond hair and blue eyes. But my last

A 3.5-cent FSF will be more than enough to cover fuel cost increases, in fact it allows for 2.2-cent profit per kWh across the board for the CUC. What is going to happen to all the profits from the FSF increase? The FSF proposed is far in excess of what CUC needs if the figures provided at the public hearing are correct.

The catastrophic impact that will result in this power increase will be irreversible. If this 3.5-cent FSF is implemented, many businesses will not be able to pass on the increase and will be forced to close their doors forever.

This will cause less jobs and less tax revenue in the overall economy, costing more jobs in the future. It is apparent that some increase is warranted; let's hire legitimate experts to study what the proper amount is and get the increase right. Making a mistake on the size of the increase will be one mistake we will not be able to correct.

Larry Knecht
San Vicente



A makeshift memorial sits on the front lawn of Scott and Laci Peterson's home in Modesto, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004. Scott Peterson was found guilty Friday in the murder of his wife Laci, and their unborn child, Conner.

Peterson faces dual task in sentencing

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP)—The jury that convicted Scott Peterson saw a man with two faces: in public, a loving father-to-be with a steady job and stable home, and in private a cheating husband who yearned for bachelorhood and was willing to kill for it. Convicted Friday of murdering his pregnant wife and her fetus, Peterson must now present a unified image on two fronts—he must convince jurors that his life is worth sparing while arguing to the courts that he was wrongly convicted.

Some experts said he might have a chance to win an appeal, given the dismissal of two jurors during deliberations. After his sentencing, defense investigators are likely to interview panelists, looking for any signs of misconduct.

"These jurors are about to go under the microscope," said Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson.

Peterson faces life in prison or the death penalty for the first-degree murder of his wife, Laci, and second-degree murder of the fetus.

While the first part of the trial focused on evidence, the penalty phase, beginning Nov. 22, will be laced with raw emotion as rules of evidence that prohibit inflaming jurors are cast aside.

Blockbuster testimony is expected from Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, who will testify about losing a 27-year-old daughter and the grandson she was waiting for.

"She's going to get up there and she's going to break down. Her voice is going to crack," said Daniel Horowitz, a crimi-

nal defense attorney and regular trial observer.

Peterson is unlikely to take the stand and beg for mercy—doing that would require him to admit to the murders, and throw away any chance of arguing his innocence. Instead, testimony will likely include pleas from his parents to spare his life.

Jury consultant Ed Bronson said Peterson's defense attorney, Mark Geragos, will try to tap any lingering doubt over whether Peterson was a calculated killer. The defense is expected to remind jurors that the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman has no criminal record or history of violence.

"Are you so sure that you are willing to kill this man?" Bronson said.

But even if jurors unanimously vote for death, Peterson might not be executed for decades, if ever. Only 10 executions have been carried out since California brought back capital punishment in 1978. None of the 650 current condemned—some of whom have been awaiting death for decades—have completed their appeals.

"You're more likely to die of natural causes on death row than be executed," Levenson said.

On appeal, Peterson's attorneys will likely focus on two key issues during the jury's deliberations, said former San Francisco prosecutor and trial observer Jim Hammer.

"The biggest issue is juror removals," Hammer said. "Kicking someone off the jury is one of the riskiest things you can do in a trial. ... Two jurors in two days? I've never heard of that happening before."

One juror was ousted after performing her own research on

the case outside of the evidence presented at trial. Violating the gag order, the juror said Friday night that she supported the verdict. Another, the jury foreman, was removed a day later. The reasons for his ousting remain sealed by the court.

The second point of appeal is the viewing of the boat prosecutors allege Peterson used to dump his wife's body into San Francisco Bay.

Jurors climbed inside the boat, parked in a garage near the courthouse, rocking it from side to side. Defense attorneys had argued it would have been nearly impossible for Peterson to have heaved his wife overboard without capsizing.

Geragos sought a mistrial after the viewing, claiming jurors violated the law by conducting an experiment. The motion was quickly denied.

"If the court of appeals finds that to be an experiment, that could lead to a reversal," Hammer said.

The judge said he expects the jury to begin deliberating Peterson's sentence by Nov. 30. The jury then will be sequestered again while deciding Peterson's fate.

Regardless of any appeals, expected motions for a new trial, or the ultimate sentence, Peterson must prepare himself for prison. He remains in county jail until sentencing.

"It will be a hard time for him. Initially, he may be segregated. But life segregation can be difficult," Levenson said. "It's more likely he'll end up in general population. He's going to have to learn how to survive. As far as the inmates are concerned, he's a wife killer and a baby killer."

ACROSS THE NATION

Ads to back Schwarzenegger for president

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Californians will soon see advertisements urging them to help give Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and other foreign-born citizens the chance to run for president.

The cable television ads, set to begin running Monday, are from a Silicon Valley-based group that wants to amend the U.S. Constitution, which limits the presidency to people born in the United States. Schwarzenegger was born in Austria but became a U.S. citizen in 1983.

"You cannot choose the land of your birth. You can choose the land you love," Lissa Morgenstern says in the ads.

She is a San Francisco Bay area mutual fund manager and major Schwarzenegger campaign donor who is helping pay for the ads and created a companion Web site.

Schwarzenegger, 57, has said he would consider running for president if the Constitution allowed but hasn't pushed for a constitutional change.

The TV ads mark the first significant attempt to build public support for an amendment. While polls show Schwarzenegger remains popular with voters, the idea of a constitutional change is not.

Four proposed amendments are circulating in Congress, but none has advanced. Constitutional amendments require congressional approval and ratification by 38 states.

Surfer repels shark that attacked him

EUREKA, Calif. (AP)—A surfer who was bumped off his board by a shark was able to push the animal away and paddle back to shore.

Brian Kang, 38, was 200 yards offshore Thursday, waiting for a wave in a popular surfing area near Eureka, when the shark knocked him into the water. The shark came back toward him as he tried to climb back onto the surfboard.

"It just came out of the blue," Kang said from his hospital bed, where he was being treated for gashes on his hip, knees and thumb. "I pushed it away with my hands."

Kang said he never got a good look at the shark, but another surfer spotted a 3-foot dorsal fin, which would indicate a great white shark.

It was the second shark attack along California's northern shore in recent months.

A great white shark estimated to be 17 feet long killed a man in August near Fort Bragg as he was diving for abalone.

Couple accused in plot to sacrifice kids

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—A woman and her boyfriend are accused of plotting to sacrifice the woman's three children on a church altar.

Nicole Mancini, 29, and John Thurber, 35, were arrested at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday after workers said they heard the woman say she wanted to sacrifice the boys.

"We could tell this woman was not right," said church secretary Donna Landolfi. "She said, 'Let's go make the sacrifice.'"

Mancini and Thurber were in jail Saturday on more than \$25,000 bail. They were arraigned Friday on three counts each of misdemeanor child endangerment. Thurber was also charged with marijuana possession.

The children, ages 9, 7 and 2, were not harmed and were placed in state custody. Police said Thurber is the father of the youngest boy.

Police said Mancini told them that Jesus sacrificed himself for her, so she was going to sacrifice the boys to free her soul.

"Eighteen years I've been doing this and I've never come across anything like it," police Lt. Paul Callahan said.

Mancini's attorney, Kimberly Shoen, said her client meant the children no harm.

"They were never tied to the altar, there was no blood, there were no constraints for sacrificial use," she said.

Linda Slamon, Thurber's attorney, said Mancini had been acting "irrationally" recently and Thurber accompanied her to the church to get her help.

Ex-congressman, ambassador Foglietta dies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Thomas M. Foglietta, a South Philadelphia politician who served for 17 years in Congress and later was named U.S. ambassador to Italy, died Saturday. He was 75.

Foglietta died at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, said Steve Brown, a hospital spokesman. He had been hospitalized since Oct. 30, when he experienced breathing problems, according to his nephew, Michael Foglietta.

Foglietta, the son of a city councilman from a heavily Italian ward, was 26 years old when he was elected as a Republican to the City Council in 1955. He served on the council for 19 years and ran as a Republican in an unsuccessful bid to unseat Democratic Mayor Frank Rizzo in 1975.

Foglietta won election to Congress as an independent in 1980 and eventually switched to the Democratic Party.

Teen charged with trying to aid militants

STANWOOD, Wash. (AP)—A teenager accused of planning to supply a Somalian terrorist group with night vision goggles and bulletproof vests foreshadowed the charges in his high school yearbook with a note that mentions Somalia in his "plans for world supremacy."

Mark Robert Walker, 19, was arrested Nov. 6 in El Paso, Texas, and on Friday was charged with attempting or conspiring to contribute goods or services to a global terrorist organization. A more serious charge filed earlier was dropped.

Months earlier, Walker caused a stir when he left a cryptic note next to his senior portrait in the 2004 yearbook, writing that his "plans for world supremacy are in order. They entail taking over Somalia and working outward, but I should not divulge the exact details of my cunning strategy."

The entry also referred to Walker's "future heroic death" and offered a "death poem" with imagery of a grenade exploding and the phrase "all shall pass this world."

Boston archbishop reveals pain of closings

BOSTON (AP)—Archbishop Sean O'Malley made an emotional appeal Saturday to Catholics who oppose the downsizing of local parishes, saying the cuts are so painful that he sometimes asks God to "call me home and let someone else finish this job."

In a letter directed at protesters, O'Malley said the church's financial status is "much worse than people realize" and that a plan to close or consolidate 83 of the 357 parishes is for the good of the archdiocese.

Parishioners from at least seven churches that have been shut down have refused to leave the buildings in protest of the archdiocese's downsizing plan.

"Closing parishes is the hardest thing I have ever had to do in 40 years of religious life," O'Malley wrote. "At times I ask God to call me home and let someone else finish this job, but I keep waking up in the morning to face another day of reconfiguration."

O'Malley said the restructuring was prompted by factors including the clergy sex abuse scandal, which has cost the archdiocese about \$90 million in lawsuit settlements, declining attendance and fewer priests.

But even as the three-page letter was released Saturday, groups supporting the vigils at closed parishes met in Worcester to strengthen their resolve.

Asia



World

crm

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credit union

Health & Fitness

Life & Style

Antihero redefined



I was in my young teens when *Child's Play* was released, in 1988. For some time, the foul-mouthed serial killer doll was the talk of the school, and you knew you were cool if you'd seen it. You were even cooler if you could recite the lines—"Hi, I'm Chucky. Wanna Plaaaay?" That's what I thought, at the time, anyway. In retrospect, it was probably just irksome and nerdy.

I haven't seen *Child's Play* since then, but the way I remember it is that it was very scary, Chucky easily rivaling Freddy Krueger. With *Seed of Chucky*, the fourth sequel, the series has moved in a completely different direction than the original, going for all-out camp, never even trying to be scary. On that level, I suppose it works. The audience I watched it with was laughing quite often, and I have to admit there were more than a few times when I joined the crowd. Who was in the crowd? A couple of giant dweebs (yours truly, included), and a handful of adolescents.

There are a number of people, and you know who you are, for whom a campy schlock-fest is the perfect entertainment, providing, of course, that one is half inebriated before watching, and in company of good friends. I'm pretty sure that's the only way to enjoy a movie as low-brow as *Seed of Chucky*. Writer/director Don Mancini takes the lowest road imaginable, and you know he's reached new depths of gross-out humor with the graphic scene involving a masturbating doll and a turkey baster. *Seed of Chucky* earns its "R" rating, enthusiastically.

I was actually into it, for the first 15 minutes. *Seed of Chucky* opens by introducing us to a new character, known by a few different names throughout

By JOE WEINDL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Comments? E-mail Weindl at joeWATCHESMOVIES@yahoo.com.



the movie, the first of which is not suitable for print (let's just call him "Poo-face"). "Poo-face" (voiced by Billy Boyd of *Lord of the Rings*) is an orphaned talking doll, held captive and forced into labor by a cruel ventriloquist in England. "Poo-face" is kind, gentle, and sensitive, but has nightmares in which he becomes a psycho killer. When "Poo-face" sees Chucky and his wife on the telly, he assumes, correctly, that they must be his parents, and runs off to L.A. to find them.

For as long as "Poo-face" was the hero of the story, I was enjoying watching it. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but I need to have someone to root for, and "Poo-face" is a character the audience can sympathize with. Once he finds his parents, though, the story shifts, and the heroes of the story become Chucky (Brad Dourif), and his wife, Tiffany (Jennifer Tilly), giving a whole new definition to the idea of the

antihero. With "Poo-face" as the hero, *Seed of Chucky* was kind of like a sick and twisted Disney animation. With Chucky and Tiffany as the heroes, it's just sick and twisted.

After "Poo-face" finds his parents, the narrative just kind of meanders all over the place. I'm not even going to bother describing the "plot", more than I already have (it involves the aforementioned turkey baster). Absent any real story line, or any traditional heroes or villains, *Seed of Chucky* amounts to a collection of sophomoric comedic episodes, some of which are funny (there are a few good spoofs of other movies), and some of which are just stupid. I'm sure, at some point in my life, I would've thought it funny to see a doll spout a bunch of filth, flarn filth, or to see a Britney Spears look-alike flip the bird. There was also once a time, however, when words like "ding-dong" and "fart" were hysteri-



cally funny, but thankfully, one's sense of humor becomes more sophisticated with time.

Costarring alongside Chucky and the gang are Jennifer Tilly and hip-hop artist Redman, playing themselves. Unlike Ice Cube and Will Smith (two other rapper-turned-actors), Redman doesn't possess one iota of acting talent. Come to think of it, he can't rap, either, and probably wouldn't be anywhere if not for good buddy (and far superior rapper) Method Man. Tilly,

on the other hand, is a good actress, and it's a shame this is her best role of late (a fact that *Seed of Chucky* plays on, with a bunch of self-referential and self-deprecating humor).

Can I recommend *Seed of Chucky*? To the general public—no. Definitely not. What's more, I think it'd be a good idea to make sure your kids don't see it. For fans of this genre, though, *Seed of Chucky* should be devilishly bad fun. You just better be sure to say a few Hail Mary's afterward.

Popeye the Sailor Man turns 75

By LARRY McSHANE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Put away the cake. Pass the spinach. Popeye celebrates his 75th birthday this year, animated evidence that a steady diet of leafy green vegetables and pipe smoking can guarantee you Hulk Hogan forearms as a septuagenarian.

To honor the veteran sailor man, the Museum of Television and Radio unveiled a retrospective Saturday featuring rarities and collectibles from the cartoon hero's career.

"There are very few characters that are that old and still in the public consciousness," said Barry Monush, curator of the exhibit. "It's quite impressive to stick around that long and stay recognizable."

Recognizable? Who could forget that face, with its jutting jaw and permanently squinting right eye? Or those arms, with the signature anchor tattoos?

The exhibit at the midtown Manhattan museum features five flat-screen televisions running a loop of clas-

sic cartoons, with Popeye proudly proclaiming, "I yam what I yam." He's joined, as always, by the usual cast of sidekicks: love interest Olive Oyl, nemesis Pluto, the ever-indigent Wimpy and baby Swee' Pea.

Popeye was launched in 1929, debuting in a minor role in the comic strip "Thimble Theater." The sailor was an immediate hit with readers, and artist E.C. Segar converted him into the star of the strip within two years.

Several of the "Thimble Theater" strips, including one from the Dec. 12, 1931, New York Evening Journal, are on display.

But it was the Max Fleischer short films, 109 in all, that ingrained the spinach-chomping sailor into the national consciousness. The first one debuted in 1933, and Popeye became such an instant icon that spinach consumption in the United States jumped 33 percent during the 1930s.

In the 1950s, the Fleischer cartoons arrived on television and created a whole new generation of Popeye fans. New Popeye cartoons debuted in the 1970s, although that incarnation was

more politically correct: He didn't smoke a pipe, and was far less likely to pound Pluto into a pulp.

He was, however, still strong to the finish. And he still ate his spinach—although no one is really quite sure why.

"I've never read anywhere why spinach was chosen," said curator Monush. "Maybe it was something that Segar liked. Or hated. Maybe it was just a big joke."

Segar died in 1938, but that did nothing to slow down the Popeye phenomenon: kids in Denmark knew the character as Skipper Skraek, while Italian children were treated to cartoons with Bracchio Di Ferro (Iron Arm).

The retrospective also features a variety of Popeye memorabilia, from comic books to an original 1933 production cell to the "Official Popeye Pipe," still in its original package with the promise "It toots!"

"Well, Blow Me Down! 75 Years of Popeye" runs through Jan. 30 at the museum. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for children under 14. And no—you cannot pay Tuesday for a tour today.



An image of Popeye sits in an exhibit dedicated to the cartoon character at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004.

Rapper O.D.B. collapses, dies in studio

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The rap artist O.D.B., whose demented rhymes, wild lifestyle and incessant legal troubles made him one of the most vivid characters in hip-hop, collapsed and died inside a recording studio Saturday. He was 35.

O.D.B. had complained of chest pains before collapsing at the Manhattan studio, said Gabe Tesoriero, a spokesman for Roc-a-Fella records. He was dead by the time paramedics reached him, Tesoriero said.

The cause of death was not immediately clear, but O.D.B. had recently finished a prison sentence for drug possession and escaping a rehab clinic. He would have turned 36 on Monday.

O.D.B.—also known as Ol' Dirty Bastard, Dirt McGirt, Big Baby Jesus or his legal name of Russell Jones—was a found-



O.D.B., Ol' Dirty Bastard of the Wu Tang Clan, whose legal name is Russell Jones, takes the stage unannounced in this Feb. 25, 1998 file photo at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Rapper O.D.B. collapsed and died inside his studio Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004, according to his record label.

Photographers sue Timberlake, Diaz for assault

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two photographers sued Cameron Diaz and her boyfriend Justin Timberlake for assault and battery, claiming the celebrity couple taunted and attacked them outside a fancy hotel.

Saul Lazo and Jose Gonzalez said the “Charlie’s Angels” star and the pop singer threatened them as they tried to photograph the couple near the famed Chateau Marmont on Nov. 6.

The lawsuit filed Friday said the photographers, on assignment for a photo agency, did nothing to harass the couple and stood more than 10 feet from them until Diaz ran at Lazo, hit him in the neck and tripped him, snatching his camera.

Timberlake then allegedly screamed at the bleeding photographer as he was on the ground: “What ... are you going to do, man? I know you are not going to do anything.”

Lazo responded to Timberlake by saying he was simply trying to do his job, according to the suit.

A representative for the couple said he could not immediately comment on the suit, but said in a previous statement they were “ambushed by two men” on a dark street and acted only in self-defense.

Diaz kept Lazo’s camera, later turning it in to police. According to the suit, she also tried to grab the other camera after pushing Gonzalez, who ran away along with Lazo as Timberlake called after them, “Come and fight, you chickens.”

The photographers claim they suffered emotional distress and physical harm and request unspecified general, special and punitive damages, as well as attorney’s fees.

ing member of the seminal rap group the Wu-Tang Clan in the early 1990s. With his utterly unique delivery—alternately slurred, hyper and nonsensical—O.D.B. stood out even in the eight-man Clan, which featured such future stars as Method Man, RZA and Ghostface Killah.

The Wu-Tang blueprint was for each member to pursue solo projects, and O.D.B.’s were among the best. He released hit singles such as “Shimmy Shimmy Ya” and “Got Your Money,” and appeared on remixes with artists like Mariah Carey.

But as his fame increased, so did his erratic behavior, and fans

came to expect the unexpected from O.D.B.

When MTV News followed him around at the height of his fame, he took the camera crew and several of his kids (he was said to have more than a dozen, by numerous mothers) to the welfare office to get an allotment of food stamps.

And he received them.

In February 1998, he crashed the stage at the Grammy Awards and hijacked a microphone from singer Shawn Colvin as she accepted an award, apparently upset over losing the best rap album Grammy to P. Diddy (then known as Puff Daddy). He complained that he spent a lot of

money for new clothes because he thought he was going to win. The rapper later apologized.

Over the years, he was wounded in shootings and arrested on a veritable laundry list of charges, including menacing security officers, illegally possessing body armor, driving with a suspended license, shoplifting and threatening a former girlfriend.

In 2001 he was sentenced to two to four years in prison for drug possession, plus two concurrent years for escaping from a rehab clinic. He was released in 2003 and immediately signed with Roc-a-Fella.

He heralded his return with a news conference alongside singer Carey—pop fans may know him best for his memorable cameo on her hit “Fantasy,” featuring rhymes like “me and Mariah, go back like babies with pacifiers.”

Tesoriero said O.D.B. had been working on his comeback album for more than a year and was almost finished.

“Russell inspired all of us with his spirit, wit, and tremendous heart,” Roc-A-Fella founder Damon Dash said in a statement. “The world has lost a great talent, but we mourn the loss of our friend.”

His mother, Cherry Jones, said she received the news of her son’s death in a phone call, which she called “every mother’s worst dream.”

“To the public he was known as Old Dirty Bastard, but to me he was known as Rusty. The kindest most generous soul on earth,” her statement said. “Russell was more than a rapper, he was a loving father, brother, uncle, and most of all, son.”

Martin gets career achievement honor

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Too much praise can turn Steve Martin into a wild and insincere guy. The star of “The Jerk” and “Bringing Down the House” accepted the American Cinematheque career achievement honor with mock cynicism.

The former “Saturday Night Live” star played aloof during the Friday ceremony, with friends in the audience that included Robin Williams, Jon Lovitz, Kevin Nealon, Martin Short, Dana Delany, Eugene Levy, “Dead Men Don’t Wear Plaid” filmmaker Carl Reiner and “Parenthood” director Ron Howard.

“There are so many familiar faces tonight, people I’ve worked with, people I haven’t seen in years and I just thought, ‘Why can’t we wear name tags? What would be so wrong?’” Martin joked.

“But this evening is especially meaningful to me,” Martin added, “because when I was a kid my friends and I used to meet after school and get all dressed up and play ‘American Cinematheque awards show.’”



Ron Howard, left and Brian Grazer listen as Steve Martin gives a speech after being presented with the 19th annual American Cinematheque Award for career achievement, in Beverly Hills, Calif., Friday.

movie clips showcased his joking, dancing, dramatic acting and singing.

Rick Nicita, chairman of the organization’s board, said they chose to honor Martin because he is a “Renaissance man” who has excelled not only as an actor and comedian but as a playwright, novelist, art collector—even banjo player.

A telecast of the evening was set for broadcast Jan. 23 on the

cable channel AMC.

Nicole Kidman was last year’s honoree, and previous recipients include Eddie Murphy, Mel Gibson, Sean Connery and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

American Cinematheque, a nonprofit arts organization, operates the landmark Grauman’s Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and uses proceeds from its annual awards ceremony to host screenings and other events.

Single mom reluctant to share daughter’s school functions

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am divorced and my 5-year-old daughter, “Liza,” just started kindergarten. Her father, “George,” remarried two years ago to a woman I’ll call Beth. Beth has a 6-year-old daughter.

Now that Liza is going to “big school,” Beth wants to come to all of Liza’s parent-teacher functions with George (and in his place when he can’t make it). George agrees with her.

I don’t want Beth there. I am Liza’s mother. It would be one thing if I weren’t around and my daughter needed a mother to come to these things. I appreciate Beth wanting to do it, but to have her there would make me uncomfortable.

I don’t want to hurt Beth’s feelings, but as a mother she should understand. Am I wrong to feel this way? Should I approach them with this? Please advise.

FEELING STEPPED ON IN N.C.

DEAR FEELING: Before saying anything, consider that Beth is showing a sincere interest in Liza’s education. That is a plus if custody is shared. Every child should be as fortunate as your little girl that all of the adults in her life want to make sure she excels in school. Please think this through. Your daughter’s welfare should come first, and in this case, three heads may be better than two.

DEAR ABBY: My 80-year-old mother-in-law, “Verna,” moved in with my wife and me sometime back. We thought it would be better for her than living so far away and alone. Her husband of many years died about 15 years ago, and she is still depressed.

The trouble is, Verna has become reclusive. She hoards food in her room, rarely comes out, and spends hours just talking to her dog. She also believes that we feel she’s an intrusion in our lives.

Abby, my wife and I talked this over before Verna came to live here, and we both acknowledged that although it might be difficult, we could work through any problems. However, lately the problems have begun to include imaginary issues such as saying we won’t permit her use of the telephone. (It never happened!) Is it time to seek professional help?

CONCERNED IN TEXAS

DEAR CONCERNED: Yes. Any change in the behavior of a person your mother-in-law’s age could signal a physical, mental or neurological problem. She should be evaluated by a doctor who specializes in geriatrics—and while you’re at it, the doctor should be told about her chronic depression and hoarding. One thing is certain: She won’t get any better if you ignore the problem.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 41-year-old gay man who has survived the AIDS virus for almost 19 years. I recently had a bad health scare and realized there was so much I wanted to say to people. It occurred to me that I should write my own eulogy. I’m not sure if that’s appropriate or just self-indulgent.

I’d appreciate your thoughts. A positive attitude has been my strength.

“WATCH ME FLY” IN PALM SPRINGS

DEAR “WATCH ME FLY”: If you would like to write your own eulogy, by all means do so. You won’t be the first to do it, and it’s a surefire way to assure your message gets across—especially if it’s videotaped.

P.S. I hope your “flight” is long delayed and you have many more good years in Palm Springs.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal, right, proudly holds up the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament cup at the Garapan landmark's entrance last week. He is joined in the photo by the hotel's food and beverage director Sam Cheng.



James, Ilgauskas lead Cavaliers over Wizards

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game after an 0-3 start, beating the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday.

"We're just getting started," James said. "We're getting better every game."

Drew Gooden added 15 rebounds and 14 points while Jeff McInnis had 13 points and 11 assists for the Cavaliers.

James scored nine of the Cavaliers' first 11 in the fourth, taking over just as he did Wednesday when he outscored Phoenix 17-14 in the final 12 minutes and the Cavs overcame a 19-point deficit to win.

"He's the best," Cavs coach Paul Silas said. "He's unbelievable. He wants the ball and he wants the responsibility. Everything we need, he provides. He's so special."

The reigning rookie of the year came into the game as the NBA's second leading scorer and Cleveland's undisputed leader. Entering the game, James had accounted for 40 percent of the Cavaliers' points in the fourth quarter.

Gilbert Arenas scored 25 points to lead the Wizards. Antawn Jamison had 14 and nine rebounds for Washington, which was held to 28 points under its average.

Mavericks 94, Nets 78

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jerry Stackhouse hit all five of his third-quarter shots and scored a season-high 28 points, leading Dallas over New Jersey.

Dirk Nowitzki added 31 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and four of Dallas' 12 steals in helping the revamped Mavericks win for the sixth time in seven games.

Richard Jefferson had 28 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Nets, who lost for the third time in four home games. Point guard Zoran Planinic had a career-high 16 points and Eric Williams added 15.

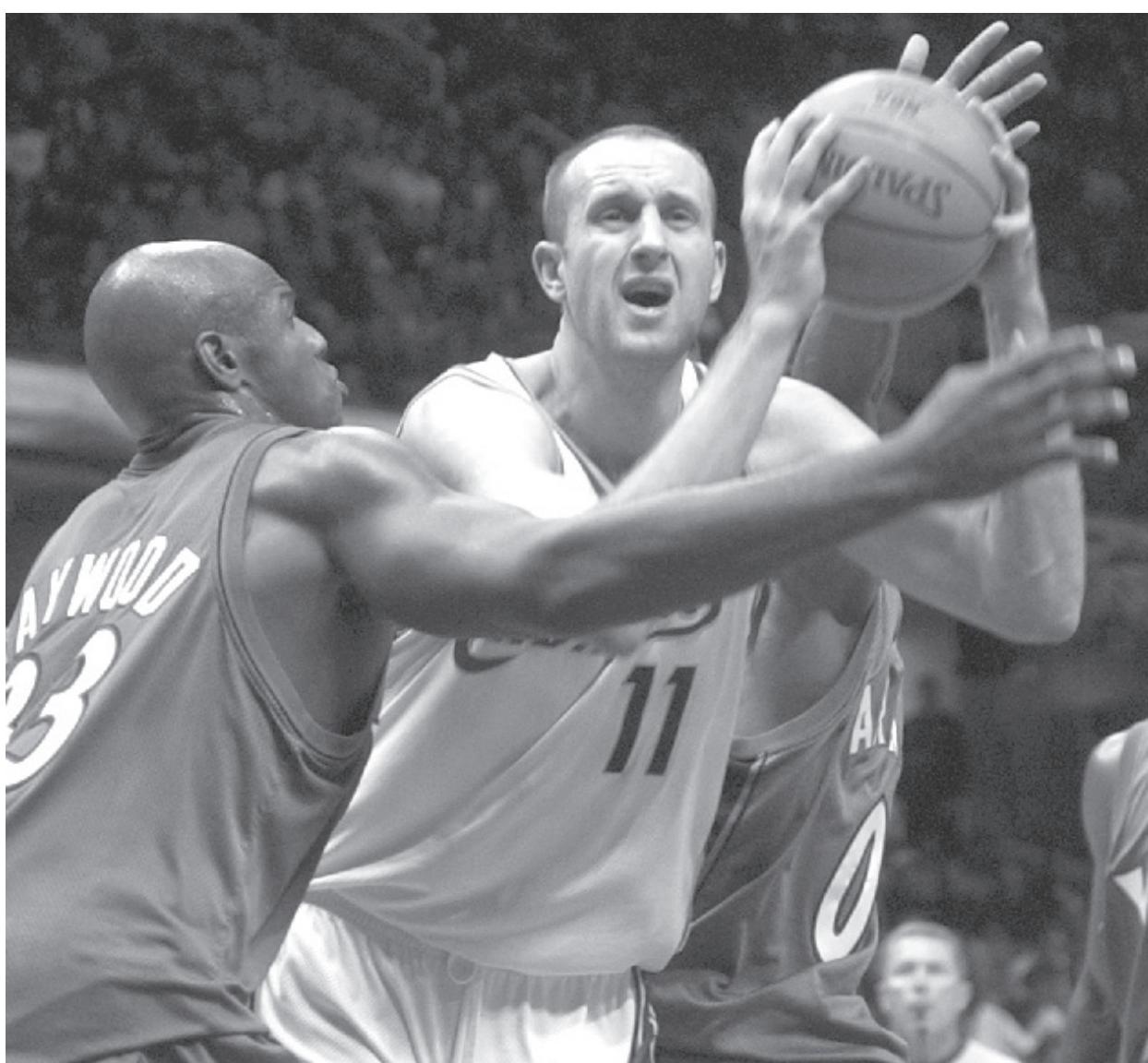
Acquired from Washington in the offseason to give Dallas a threat off the bench, Stackhouse had struggled with his shot. He came into the game shooting 36.4 percent, including a 4-of-14 effort in a loss at Orlando this week.

Warriors 103, Bobcats 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Troy Murphy added 22 to lead Golden State over expansion Charlotte.

It was the first win for coach Mike Montgomery, who opened his NBA career with six consecutive losses and put Golden State in danger of besting the franchise futility mark set at the start of the 1997-98 season by opening 0-9.

The Warriors built a 22-point, first-half lead against the undermanned Bobcats. Down to 10 players already



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas, from Lithuania, (11) tries to get past Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood (33) in the third quarter, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004, in Cleveland.

because of injury, Emeka Okafor left with a sprained ankle.

Gerald Wallace led Charlotte with 22 points.

Spurs 103, Hawks 88

In Atlanta, Tim Duncan scored 26 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and Bruce Bowen scored a career-high 22 points to help San Antonio defeat Atlanta.

Antoine Walker led the Hawks with 23 points, including four 3-pointers in the final quarter. Atlanta's only other scorer in double figures was Al Harrington with 10 points.

Spurs center Rasho Nesterovic had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The Hawks, who set a team record with only 25 second-half points Tuesday night against Cleveland, were back in a scoring rut early against the Spurs. Atlanta trailed 44-35 at halftime after shooting 28 percent in over the first two quarters.

Pacers 103, Knicks 97

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Ron Artest marked his 25th birthday with 22 points and Stephen Jackson added 19

as Indiana beat New York.

It was Indiana's fourth game in five nights, and because of injuries the Pacers had only 10 players available and used just eight, with all five starters logging at least 38 minutes.

Artest then iced the game with two free throws before Jerome Williams scored for New York at the buzzer.

Nazr Mohammed added a season-high 20 points for the Knicks.

Bucks 94, Hornets 91

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 30 points, and Keith Van Horn and Desmond Mason added 17 each to lead Milwaukee over New Orleans.

Joe Smith added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who have won three straight games following a season-opening loss to Orlando. New Orleans, led by Darrell Armstrong's 21 points, fell to 0-6.

Redd had 12 points in the third quarter to help the Bucks to a 71-63 lead. He made seven straight shots, including three in the third quarter, before finally missing with 5:02 to play.

Clippers 97, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Marko Jaric scored 17 of

his 19 points in the second half as Los Angeles rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat winless Chicago.

Corey Maggette led Los Angeles with 23 points, and Chris Wilcox added 14 points, including two thunderous dunks in the final quarter when the Clippers finished off the victory.

The Bulls blew a 49-25 second-quarter lead and fell to 0-4.

Eddy Curry led the Bulls with 20, but had only six in the second half, and shot just 8-for-20. Tyson Chandler added 17 points and had 13 rebounds.

The Clippers played their third road game in four nights after arriving at 2:30 a.m. from New York, where they'd lost to the Knicks on Friday night.

Lakers 84, Rockets 79

In Houston, Lamar Odom had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Los Angeles held on to give coach Rudy Tomjanovich a victory over his former team. The Lakers blew a 22-point lead they held in the third quarter.

In an emotional pregame ceremony, Tomjanovich was honored for his 33 years of service to the Houston organization as a player, scout, assistant coach and head coach. He led the

Rockets to NBA championships in 1994 and 1995.

Tomjanovich had his new team way ahead early in the third quarter, despite a strong performance by Yao Ming who had 32 points and seven rebounds. Jim Jackson added 15 for the Rockets.

Kobe Bryant was only 2-for-7 in the first half but he scored the Lakers' first nine points of the third quarter. He finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Jazz 108, Pistons 93

In Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 19 points against his former team, and Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, leading Utah past Detroit.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 17 points and Gordan Giricek finished with 15 points for the Jazz, who scored more than 100 points for the fifth time in six games.

The Jazz, who won just three of their six 100-point games last season, won for the fifth time in six games.

Defending NBA champion Detroit was without Ben Wallace, who missed the game because of a death in his family, and Chauncey Billups, sidelined with a sprained ankle.

Richard Hamilton scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half for Detroit. Antonio McDyess had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Kings 113, Suns 111

In Phoenix, Chris Webber had a season-high 28 points and 10 rebounds, helping Sacramento beat Phoenix and shake off its worst loss of the early season.

The Kings lost by 30 points at Seattle on Wednesday night, staggering to a 1-4 start.

Peja Stojakovic matched his season high with 23 points, Mike Bibby scored 20 and Brad Miller had six of his 14 points in the final quarter.

Amare Stoudemire and Steve Nash had 29 points apiece for the Suns, who dropped their second straight after a 4-0 start.

Trail Blazers 105, Raptors 102

In Portland, Oregon, Zach Randolph had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Portland returned home after a winless road trip to beat Toronto.

Lamond Murray's 3-pointer at the final buzzer appeared to tie the game at 105, but further review by officials showed that the shot was too late.

The Raptors trailed by as many as 20 points in the second half, but Rafer Alston hit the second of consecutive 3-pointers with 2:04 left to give Toronto a brief 100-98 lead. Damon Stoudamire answered with a jumper, and the Blazers led the rest of the way.

Toronto's Vince Carter had his lowest point total of the season, with just four in 22 minutes.

No. 24 Memphis tops George Mason, 75-58



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Sean Banks had 20 points and 11 rebounds to help No. 24 Memphis beat George Mason 75-58 on Saturday night in the second round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Memphis (2-0) will face St. Mary's in the national semifinals on Thursday night at Madison Square Garden

in New York. In the other semifinal, No. 6 Syracuse will play No. 12 Mississippi State.

Banks struggled from the field, hitting only five of his 20 shots, but was 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

Rodney Carney and Darius Washington added 12 points each, and Anthony Rice finished with 11. Joey Dorsey had his second consecutive double-double

with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Jai Lewis led George Mason (1-1) with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Lamar Butler added 13 points. The Patriots struggled from the field, shooting 28 percent, including 3-of-19 from 3-point range.

Memphis led 41-32 at the half, but George Mason stayed close despite shooting 29 percent from the field,

including 2-of-10 from 3-point range. The Patriots hit all but one of their 13 free throws in the half.

Lewis had nine points for George Mason, but was hampered with foul problems, sitting out the final 6 minutes of the half.

George Mason chipped into the lead early in the second half and eventually cut it to five at 49-44, before Memphis

clicked off seven straight points, part of a 12-1 run, to build it back to double digits.

Lewis did his best to keep George Mason in the game. Using his size underneath and spin moves on the baseline, he scored seven of George Mason's eight points in on one stretch, cutting the lead to 63-54, the only time the Patriots got the Memphis lead under double digits in the final 12 minutes.

Byrd decisions McCline to keep IBF title

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER



NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Byrd felt the power and found the canvas. Then Jameel McCline found out what made Byrd a heavyweight champion in the first place. Giving away 56 pounds and several inches, Byrd survived a second-round knockout and a bigger man's punch to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night on a split decision by the narrowest of margins.

The fight was the best of two title bouts at Madison Square Garden. In the other, WBA champion John Ruiz retained his title despite be-



AP
Chris Byrd punches Jameel McCline in the fourth round of the IBF Heavyweight Championship fight at New York's Madison Square Garden Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004.

ing knocked down twice and penalized once in an ugly fight with Andrew Golota.

Ruiz also lost his trainer, Norman Stone, who ran across the ring after the first round and threw a punch at Golota's trainer and then was ejected in the eighth round after repeatedly arguing with referee Randy Neumann.

Ruiz, though, came on strong late in the fight to win 114-111 on two cards and 113-112 on the third. The Associated Press had Golota ahead, 113-112.

As crafty a fighter as the heavyweight division has seen in recent times, Byrd needed every bit of his skills to come on strong in the later rounds to win a split 12-round decision that was in doubt until the final judge's tally was added up.

The good friends hugged as the highly entertaining fight ended and the crowd of 12,777 stood and cheered. Byrd won by 115-112 and 114-113, while McCline was favored 114-112 on the third scorecard.

The AP card favored Byrd, 115-113.

"The way I fought back showed I am a true champion. I had to dig down. He weighed 270 pounds," Byrd said. "I definitely did enough to win the fight. I am a champion."

Byrd, who weighed 214 pounds to McCline's 270, was in trouble early, going down in the second round from a right hand and taking punishment from an aggressive McCline. He was trailing badly after five rounds, before beginning to find his mark and score with quick inside combinations.

It was the third title defense for the southpaw Byrd, and the third fight that was close until the end. In his last fight, he retained the title with a draw over Golota.

"He has fast hands and he took me out of my game plan," McCline said. "That was the difference."

In other fights:

□ Evander Holyfield was dominated once again, this time

by journeyman Larry Donald, but refused to call it a career. At the age of 42, Holyfield lost almost every round to Donald and has now won only two of his last nine fights.

□ Former heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman put himself in contention for one of the major titles by stopping an outclassed Kali Meehan after four rounds. Rahman never knocked Meehan down but was giving him such punishment at the end of the fourth round that Meehan's corner threw in the towel after the round ended.

Byrd (38-2-1) didn't have the power to knock McCline down, but stood and traded punches in the later rounds, getting the better of the bigger man in almost every exchange and giving a boxing clinic to both McCline (31-4-3) and the Garden crowd.

McCline was staggering toward the end when a flurry by Byrd seemed to hurt him with 45 seconds left in the 11th round and Byrd in command.

"It was not everything I imagined it would be because I expected to go home with the title," McCline said. "It looked like I fell apart a little toward the end and that may have cost me."

McCline appeared on his way to a quick end when he floored Byrd late in the second round. But Byrd got up, weathered the storm and began landing with quick combinations.

"I can't believe it happened," Byrd said of the knockdown. "He hit me right behind the ear. It was a perfect shot."

Like Byrd, Ruiz was in danger of losing his title early. He was dropped by a counter right late in the second round by Golota, then went down a few seconds later with a right to the top of the head.

The fight disintegrated from there into a brawling, mauling affair that pleased nobody except Ruiz, who has a history of fighting ugly and winning unpopular decisions.

No. 7 Utah pastes Wyoming, 45-28



LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP)—A

brownout that delayed the start for 99 minutes was the only thing that slowed down No. 7 Utah on Saturday night. After power was restored, Utah rolled to a 45-28 victory over Wyoming, clinching a second straight Mountain West title and boosting the Utes' hopes for a marquee bowl.

Utah's school-record 10-0 start combined with Wisconsin's 49-14 loss to Michigan State could move the Utes into the top six in the BCS standings and a likely berth in the Fiesta Bowl. Utah is 6-0 in conference play.

Alex Smith passed for 244 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a game-high 105 yards and another TD as Utah scored on its first five possessions. Smith, who completed 17 of 27 passes, has 27 touchdown

passes and only two interceptions on the season.

Steve Savoy had a 15-yard run that put Utah up 38-7 and a 10-yard TD among his six receptions as the Utes racked up 488 yards of offense.

John Madsen's 15-yard catch made it 45-14 on the final play of the third quarter.

Wyoming (6-4, 3-3) had no answer for the Utes' attack, which came close to its averages of 45.8 points and 500 yards.

Helped by Wyoming's ineptness, Utah piled up 318 yards and a 31-7 lead by halftime. The Cowboys coughed up the ball on three of their first four drives.

Morgan Scalley's sixth interception of the season set up a 26-yard pass from Smith to Paris Warren, putting Utah up 24-7 with 11:04 left in the first half.

Utah bolted to a 14-0 lead on Smith's 27-yard keeper and

Marty Johnson's 1-yard run before Wyoming scored on a 41-yard pass from Corey Bramlet to Jovon Bouknight.

David Carroll's 25-yard field goal left the Utes up 17-7 after one quarter.

Bramlet, who passed for 278 yards but was intercepted twice, scored on two short runs in the second half and tossed a 20-yard TD to Bouknight with 34 seconds left after the Utes' only turnover.

Smith's opening touchdown came after Corey Dodds recovered a Wyoming fumble on the game's second play.

Marques Ledbetter's interception on the Cowboys' next drive led to a 64-yard Utah march capped by Johnson's TD run.

The start was delayed 1 hour, 39 minutes because of a partial power outage, leaving fans shivering in twilight and a 15-degree wind chill until kickoff at 6:45 p.m.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	2	.600	—
Toronto	4	3	.571	—
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1/2
New York	2	3	.400	1
New Jersey	2	4	.333	1 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	4	2	.667	—
Orlando	4	2	.667	—
Washington	3	3	.500	1
Charlotte	1	4	.200	2 1/2
Atlanta	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

Milwaukee	3	1	.750	1/2
Indiana	5	2	.714	—
Cleveland	3	3	.500	—
Detroit	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	0	4	.000	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	6	1	.857	—
San Antonio	5	1	.833	1/2
Houston	3	4	.429	3
Memphis	2	4	.333	3 1/2
New Orleans	0	6	.000	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Seattle	5	1	.833	—
Utah	5	1	.833	—
Minnesota	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Denver	2	4	.333	3

Pacific Division

Phoenix	4	2	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	4	3	.571	1/2
L.A. Lakers	4	4	.500	1
Sacramento	2	4	.333	2
Golden State	1	6	.143	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland	105	Washington	74
Dallas	94	New Jersey	78
San Antonio	103	Atlanta	88
Golden State	103	Charlotte	87
Indiana	103	New York	97
L.A. Lakers	84	Houston	79
L.A. Clippers	97	Chicago	96
Milwaukee	94	New Orleans	91
Utah	108	Detroit	93
Sacramento	113	Phoenix	111
Portland	105	Toronto	102?

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

EAST

Boston College	36	West Virginia	17
Bucknell	42	Colgate	7
Buffalo	36	Cent. Michigan	6
Cent. Connecticut	28	Albany	N.Y. 23
Cornell	32	Columbia	26
Dartmouth	20	Brown	7
Duquesne	36	Morehead St.	33, 2OT
Harvard	31	Penn	10
Lafayette	56	Holy Cross	20
Lehigh	21	Fordham	14
Maine	4		



Triathlete Dick Pierce finishes the bicycle portion of the Enticer Triathlon and readies for the transition to the run on Saturday, Nov. 6.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Still no takers for Thursday 8-ball

Corner Pocket owner and billiards *conisseur* Ken Phillips is once again inviting pool players on island to partake of competitive 8-ball action at his sports bar.

A week after announcing that the favorite billiards venue of the island's slickest pool players is moving its regular Tuesday 8-Ball Tournament to Thursday, Phillips reported that, "nobody has been biting."



Phillips said he would try again this Nov. 18 to restart the 8-ball event, which promises a level playing field for ace cue artists and not so good ones alike.

The renamed Thursday 8-Ball Tournament is scheduled to roll off 8:30pm Thursday. Participants must fork over \$15 to enter the double-elimination competition. Progressive pot for 8-ball in a break will apply.

Ladies will also be given a handicap and players are given free practice rounds before the tournament starts provided they buy drinks from the bar.

First place is assured half of the

total entrance fee with runner-up and third places also coming home with cash prizes. The Top 3 will also receive Budweiser giveaways from MARPAC.

Corner Pocket's Thursday 8-Ball Tournament can host a maximum of 16 players.

Phillips and Corner Pocket also continues to host the ever-popular Monday 9-Ball Tournament. As its name suggests, the tournament rolls off every Monday beginning at 9pm.

The competition uses a handicap to give beginners a chance against top-caliber players. Entry fee is \$10 and first place and second place are guaranteed prize money.

Both the regular 9-ball and 8-ball tournaments use the rules of the Billiards Congress of America.

For more information on the regular Monday 9-Ball Tournament and upcoming Thursday 8-Ball Tournament, please contact Phillips at 233-POOL (7665). (*Mark Rabago*)

upset before the sunset.

The Glazers scored all of the runs that they would need in the bottom of the first inning when Tyrone Omar, Anthony Palacios, J.P. Sablan, and Ben Taisican made their way home in the four run, four hit stanza, and relied on solid pitching to carry them home.

Hurler Franco Flores pitched six and a third innings, fanning four and allowing a pair of runs off of four hits before David Camacho slammed the door

Triathletes invade Marpi anew

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER



While many people across the CNMI were getting ready for their weekend barbeques at the beach, several others gathered at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for a swim, bike ride, and a run, as the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation hosted an "Enticer Triathlon" in the wee hours of last Saturday, Nov. 6.

In an effort to attract more people to the sport of three, the NMITF put together a series of races aimed at preparing would be triathletes for the Olympic distance triathlon in Tinian in February.

NMITF volunteers and organizers were surprised at the large turnout, as 36 racers showed up to take part in the

event. Adding to the delight of organizers is that 31 of the participants had never competed in a triathlon of any distance.

Organizers and volunteers made a list of those needing bikes, helmets and goggles, and began to register the rookies.

Due to the larger than expected turn-out, several of the experienced triathletes opted to volunteer to help as race buddies, transition help, or as course safety officers.

NMITF president Stephan Samoyloff assembled the mass of first-timers for a pre-race briefing at the pool before Saipan swim coach Mike Stewart, blew the whistle to start the event at 8:05am.

The first-time racers used a variety of methods to negotiate the 200-meter swim, to include a few who chose to utilize fins and snorkels. Though no two

strokes were the same, the athletes were in unison in their desire to try something new.

From the pool, racers quickly made the transition to the bike portion of the course, which featured an approximately 3-kilometer ride northward from the pool to the dump, where they turned around and headed back.

After reaching the driveway to the pool, volunteers racked their bikes while racers then transitioned to the 1km run north to the FEBC road sign, before returning to the pool.

The first place finisher overall it was Saipan International School teacher Wayne Bramlett. The experienced triathlete pulled off the fastest combined time of 25:09 to finish ahead of Gary Padsing in second (25:26), and Caleb Gabbie in third (26:06).

Gabbie also finished first in

the youth category ahead of second place Brad Brostrom (29:00-ninth overall), and third place Justin Alexander (32:13—14th overall).

Betty Johnson placed first among the women with 32:03, for 13th overall, while Brenda Schultz (17th overall) was just a minute behind in second place with a 33:03, followed by third place Laura Hohman with a time of 34:00.

The sole female youth competitor was Natasha Good who finished with a time of 28:06 and in 7th place overall.

The NMITF will continue the series with a second enticer at Pau Pau Beach on Saturday, Dec. 11, when the distances are increased to a 600-meter swim, an 18-kilometer bike, and 4-kilometer run. Registration and start times have yet to be announced.

Ada, eight others elected to board

Nine volunteer district administrators were elected to three-year terms on the Little League International Board of Directors, it was announced recently by Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball.

The newly-elected directors are: James Ada of Saipan, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (District 1); Frank Bergfield of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (District 1); Danny Cavallo of Syracuse, N.Y. (District 8); Jim Chavez of Auburn, Wash. (District 10); Val Domingue, Jr. of Lafayette, La. (District 1); Bob Gibson of Dunedin, Fla. (District 12); James Joseph of Burlington, Wis. (District 1); Felix M. Rivera of Arroyo, Puerto Rico (District 13), and Marc St. Pierre of Quebec, Ontario, Canada (District 4).

The nine new members were nominated by their fellow district administrators at the Little League International Congress in Virginia Beach, Va., last April. Each of these new directors brings a wealth of experience and volunteer leadership to serve this board, said Keener.

Its that experience at all levels of the Little League program that makes them highly qualified to help govern



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

James Ada, standing right, of Saipan joins eight other newly elected Little League International Board of Directors.

the worlds largest organized youth sports program. A member of the International Board of Directors for eight years, Timothy J. Hughes from Williamsport, has served as chairman-elect since 2001, and succeeds W. Dwight Raiford of Harlem, N.Y. Raiford will remain on the board of directors. It is an honor and a privilege to be elected chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors, said

Hughes. I have been a part of the Little League program for many years, and at each level of my association I have been proud of the role Little League plays in the lives of the children

and volunteers it serves. I see my time as chairman as an opportunity to continue to educate, and help expand the program. Hughes is the first chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors to have graduated from Little League. As a boy, he played in the Little Mountaineer Little League in South Williamsport. Dennis Lewin of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., was elected chairman-elect, and will serve in that capacity until the election of nine new directors in 2007.

Little League Baseball, founded in 1939, is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with nearly 2.7 million participants and a million

volunteers in all 50 U.S. states and 66 other countries. The Little League International Board of Directors, a volunteer board, is responsible for the management of the property and affairs of Little League. At the meeting, the board heard presentations on Little League Internationals newly created league development department and electronic newsletter.

The league development department will take a more pro-active approach to inquiries from potential new leagues. The Little League E-Newsletter will be sent electronically to more than 250,000 adult volunteers and players each month. (PR)

HYATT

From Page 28

two rounds to win Class-A, while Togawa's 144 smoked the field in the ladies division.

Blanco, meanwhile, finished tied with four others atop the

leaderboard in Class-B but

yielded the Top 2 spots be-

cause of tiebreaks.

von Siebenthal, who also played for the team, said Saipan was awarded the champion-

ship cup during a gala dinner/

Halloween night held at the Hyatt Regency Manila on Oct. 30.

Sam Cheng, food and bever-

age director of the hotel and also

a member of the champion team, said the three-day, three-night golf package to Manila was also made possible by Continental Micronesia, which gave a special discount to the delegation.

Cheng and von Siebenthal both said that aside from the two days of wonderful golf, played at the mountain resort town south of Manila, Saipan Club at the Hyatt members also were able to shop at the Philippine capital's famously inexpensive shopping malls.

Other members of the victori-

ous Club at the Hyatt Saipan team were Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas, Camacho's SPG teammate Nick Sablan, former resident Richard Heidemann (husband of former Philippine Consul General Julia Heidemann), Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles Cepeda, Rex Palacios, Timothy Brasuell, Juan Reyes, Frank Castro, Renato Babalones, Sung Wook Lee, Manny Alvarez, Bob George John Matsumoto, John Santos, Matt Araki, Frankie Pangelinan, Daniel Harding, Mike Pai, Mark Hanson, Belle Grandinetti, Liz George, and Yoko Togawa.



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While many people across the CNMI were getting ready for their weekend barbeques at the beach, several others gathered at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for a swim, bike ride, and a run.

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28 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

Saipan Tribune Sports

James, Ilgauskas lead Cavaliers over Wizards

LeBron James scored 24 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game after an 0-3 start, beating the Washington Wizards 105-74 Saturday.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Chiefs complete season of perfection

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER


The Shell Chiefs' offense was able to put a couple of drives together to pull out a 12-2 victory against the Verizon Nitro to complete their undefeated season, in the sloppiest game of the 2004 Commonwealth Football League's fourth season.

Both of the defenses dominated the CPA Airport field last Saturday, but while the Chiefs were able to keep their end zone Verizon free, the Nitro surrendered touchdowns in the first and third quarters, that proved to be the difference.

Without the services of quarterbacks Clasley Ngeskebei and Danny Puniimata, the Chiefs once again put the offense in the hands of Bryant Moors, while his statistics do not jump off the page, Moors did what he had to do to get his team the win. On a couple of occasions, Moors found himself in the grasp of multiple Nitro defenders and managed to toss the ball to awaiting receivers.

In one instance he was able to get the ball out to a well-positioned Stanley Iakopo, and the league's leading rusher was able to scamper to the outside for a 22-yard touchdown that gave them the 12-2 lead.

On the day, Moors went 3-for-13 for 58 yards through in the air, including a 19-yard strike to Luka Tapua'ialupe for



BRAD E. RUSZALA

George Lieto and the Verizon Nitro offense walks off the field after being stopped by the unyielding Shell Chiefs defense.

a touchdown. Moors also had a pair of interceptions, and while both teams had difficulty with their passing games, the Chiefs relied on their running game to put points on the board and take time off the clock.

The high-octane Chiefs run-

ning attack that had averaged just less than 110 yards per game was only able to accumulate 77 yards on the day. Iakopo once again led the Chiefs on the ground, but was held to 35 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown—well below his average. In the absence of Jeff

Boyer, running back Paul Guerrero got plenty of touches, as big No. 4 churned out 25 hard yards on 13 carries.

The Nitro also had a receiver at the helm, as George Lieto was tasked to lead his team. Unfortunately for the white and

red, Lieto didn't find much success through the air, completing 2-of-9 passes for -3 yards. Lieto made up for his lack of an air attack with a few scintillating runs. Number 88 ran seven times for 51 yards on the day, including a 41-yarder.

Running back Simon Sebuu ran six times for 23 yards, but go-to-guy James Hargrove was held to 15 yards.

While the Verizon offense had some difficulty putting points on the board, their defense provided some assistance when John Sablan and Juanis King were on the scene to record a safety for the Nitro in the second quarter.

Jesse Sablan and Jack Aldan were wreaking havoc on the Chiefs as well, as Sablan, racked up seven tackles and a sack, while Aldan had five stops and two sacks.

The Shell curtain didn't do too bad either, as they didn't allow the Nitro offense a score in the contest.

Whenever Lieto tried to get something going for the offense, a sea of red and gold was waiting. Paul Camacho seemed to be on the other side of the line of scrimmage before Lieto could take his first step away from the center.

Camacho pierced through the Nitro line as if it the big guys weren't even there. He finished the game with 4.5 tackles, but teammate Chico Reyes led all of the Chiefs with 7.5 on the day.

The playoffs get underway this weekend, as the Miller Barbarians (3-3) host the Verizon Nitro (0-6) on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 10am. The winner earns the right to take on the Shell Chiefs (6-0) in the championship the following weekend on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 10am.

Hyatt GM elated on Manila trip

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER


Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal was elated that the Garapan landmark was able to bring home the bacon, so to speak, in the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament held at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club on Oct. 29-30 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

"We're very happy about the results. We're very happy our Club at the Hyatt members were able to win the tournament and bested their counterparts from Manila and Guam, especially Guam," he said.

Guam topped last year's inaugural tournament between the three hotels but lost steam this year finishing in third place behind Saipan and Manila. Local golfers got a boost



MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal, right, proudly holds up the 2nd Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament cup at the Garapan landmark's entrance last week. He is joined in the photo by the hotel's food and beverage director Sam Cheng.

with the participation of 2003 Suva South Pacific Games veteran Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, B flight specialist Diego Blanco, and women's ace golfer Noriko Togawa.

Club at the Hyatt members from Saipan wound up with 1,410 in two rounds to finish ahead of Manila, which had 1,428, and Guam, which had 1,457.

Saipan led from the get-go, as its players combined for a superb 707 in the first day of competition compared to 719 for Manila and 743 for Guam. It didn't end there as Saipan made it two-for-two the next day amassing a score of 703 to once again top the three-team fight, while Manila and Guam could only muster 709 and 714, respectively.

Camacho, Blanco, and Togawa also finished with the best scores in their respective divisions. Camacho fired a 132 in

See HYATT on Page 27

North Stars, Kautz Glass earn weekday wins

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
REPORTER

The Heinz & David North Stars and the Kautz Glass Glaziers triumphed on Thursday to edge closer to the first place Speaker Fatial Pirates in a bonus day of baseball in the fall edition of the Saipan Major League at Francisco M. Palacios field in Oleai.

The North Stars received six strong innings from pitcher Brandon Santos, and reliever Ricky Jones picked up the win when his offense provided the necessary runs to help him finish the job to knock off the black and gold, 8-6.

With the win, the second place North Stars (4-3) moved within a half game of the Pirates (4-2), with just a couple of

games remaining in the season.

Santos allowed four runs off of five hits and fanned six through six innings, while Jones gave up a hit and a pair of runs through three innings.

The game was all tied up at four apiece after the sixth inning before the North Stars followed up a couple of Pirates miscues with three hits and a sacrifice fly to take the 8-4 lead.

The North Stars received six strong innings from pitcher Brandon Santos, and reliever Ricky Jones picked up the win when his offense provided the necessary runs to help him finish the job to knock off the black and gold, 8-6.

North Stars' slugger Ben Jones had the big stick for his team, going 2-for-5 with two

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